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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Minesweepers Leave Yokosuka for Persian Gulf *[KYODO]* 1
Kaifu Voices Encouragement *[KYODO]* 1
Southeast Asian Agreement Cited *[KYODO]* 2
Newspapers Urge Caution *[KYODO]* 2
South Korea, Japan Agree on U.S. Consultations *[YONHAP]* 3
MITI: 'Headway' Made Toward U.S. Chip Pact *[KYODO]* 4
Hashimoto To Stress 'Balanced' Policies to Brady *[KYODO]* 4
Pledges Boost in Funds for ADB *[KYODO]* 5
Rules Out Monetary Policy Change *[KYODO]* 5
Okinawans Reject Enforced Use of Military Land *[Naha TV]* 6
Deputy Foreign Minister Owada Meets Hun Sen *[KYODO]* 6
Officials Confirm PRC Invitation to Yi Sang-ok *[KYODO]* 7
North Korean Talks To Resume in Beijing 20 May *[KYODO]* 7
China Expected To Receive Pending ADB Loans *[KYODO]* 7
Official Favors Visa-Free Visits by Islanders *[KYODO]* 7
Hungarian Minister Assures Kaifu on Debts *[KYODO]* 8
Nakasone Rejoins LDP After Quitting Over Scandal *[KYODO]* 8
Kaifu 'Still Is Resolved' on Political Reform *[KYODO]* 9
Economic Growth Continues for 53d Month *[KYODO]* 9
Toshiba Develops 3-Dimensional LSI Circuit *[KYODO]* 9
Fiberoptic Makers Plan To Supply Cable To Homes *[KYODO]* 9

North Korea

Beijing Broadcast Discusses Korean Reunification *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
'Challenge' to Will for Reunification Viewed *[KCNA]* 11
Preparations for 85th IPU Meeting Described *[KCNA]* 12
Central Bank Issues Gold Coins *[KCNA]* 12
Secretary General of IPU Arrives *[KCNA]* 12
President of IPU Council Arrives *[KCNA]* 12
Delegations Arrive for Meeting *[KCNA]* 12
Talks With Zimbabwean Delegation *[KCNA]* 13
South Helicopter's Flight Into DMZ Reported *[Pyongyang Radio]* 13
Significance of United Table Tennis Team Viewed *[KCNA]* 13
U.S. 24 Apr Aerial Exercises in South Reported *[KCNA]* 14
U.S. Said To Stretch Tentacles of Aggression *[KCNA]* 14
Kim Yong-sun Meets Khabarovsky Kray Delegation *[KCNA]* 15
Activities Mark Founding Anniversary of KPA *[KCNA]* 15
Choe Kwang Gives Speech *[Pyongyang Radio]* 15
Foreign Military Attaches Visit *[KCNA]* 23
O Chin-u, Others Lay Wreaths *[KCNA]* 23
Choe Tae-pok at Conference on Kim Il-song Work *[KCNA]* 23
Three Revolutions Exhibition Grounds Constructed *[KCNA]* 24
Nonferrous Metal Ore Production Viewed *[KCNA]* 24
Railroad Freight Transportation Increase Noted *[KCNA]* 24
KCNA Review of 26 Apr Pyongyang Press 25

South Korea

Sports Minister To Push Ahead Visit to North *[YONHAP]* 26
North To Attend Cultural Event on Sakhalin *[YONHAP]* 26
Soviet Diplomat To Convey KAL Downing Message *[YONHAP]* 27
Seoul Not To Guarantee Investments in USSR *[THE KOREA TIMES 26 Apr]* 27
Joint Development With USSR on Sakhalin Noted *[THE KOREA TIMES 26 Apr]* 28
Soviet Education Official Holds News Conference *[YONHAP]* 28
NOVOSTI Official Arrives To Discuss Bureau *[YONHAP]* 28
South-PRC Relations 'Cause No Harm to Anyone' *[THE KOREA HERALD 26 Apr]* 28
Reaction to Japan's Sending Minesweepers to Gulf *[YONHAP]* 29
Media Sound 'Shrill' Warning *[YONHAP]* 29
Farmers Demand Envoy's Ouster Over Rice Issue *[YONHAP]* 30
Environment Minister Fired Over Pollution Issue *[YONHAP]* 30
Chonnohyop Plans To Take 'One-Day Leave' 1 May *[THE KOREA HERALD 26 Apr]* 30
Government To Control Bank Credit To Cool Boom *[YONHAP]* 31
Trade Deficit Expected To Top Last Year's *[YONHAP]* 31

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

University, College To Reopen 14, 15 May *[Rangoon Radio]* 32
Rangoon Commander Addresses Meeting on Security *[Rangoon Radio]* 32

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir on Discussing Relations With Australia *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 18 Apr]* 32
MCA Leader Concerned Over Indonesian 'Influx' *[Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES 20 Apr]* 33
MCA Official Views Chinese Community's Demands *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 20 Apr]* 33
Resignation Effect on Sabah Ruling Party Noted *[Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES 25 Apr]* 34

Singapore

Officers Leave for Iraq-Kuwait UN Mission *[THE STRAITS TIMES 25 Apr]* 34

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Accept Voluntary Cease-Fire Call *[AFP]* 35
'Reliable Sources' on Cease-Fire Call *[Radio VONADK]* 35
PRACHEACHON Welcomes Cease-Fire Call *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 36
SPK Reports Hor Namhong Trip to Moscow 36
Hor Namhong Meets Soviet Officials *[SPK]* 36
Phnom Penh, French City Promote Cooperation *[SPK]* 36

Indonesia

Ali Alatas on UN, Cambodia Meeting, East Timor *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 25 Apr]* 37
'No Ambition' To Annex Papua New Guinea Land *[Jakarta Radio]* 37
Australian Defense Minister on 'Cordial' Ties *[Jakarta Radio]* 38

Laos

President Receives Outgoing PRC Ambassador *[Vientiene Radio]* 38
PRC Envoy Fetes Diplomatic Ties Anniversary *[Vientiene Radio]* 38
SPA Chairman Receives SRV Justice Delegation *[Vientiane Radio]* 38

Philippines

Reportage on U.S. Bases Agreement Negotiations 38
Aquino: Government May Terminate Agreement *[Quezon City Radio]* 38
Aquino Unsure of Reaching Agreement *[Manila Radio]* 39
Manglapus Urges U.S. 'Leniency' *[Quezon City Radio]* 39
Referendum To Be Held on Bases *[Manila Radio]* 39
Congress Moves To Abolish U.S. Defense Treaty *[Quezon City Radio]* 39
Committee Approval Still Pending *[Manila Radio]* 40
Senate Concern Over Bases Consultations Viewed *[THE CHRONICLE 25 Apr]* 40
Aquino Interviewed on Economy, U.S. Bases *[Quezon City Radio]* 40
Muslim Bandits Free French Priest *[Manila Radio]* 45
LDP Fails To Agree on Standard Bearer *[THE CHRONICLE 25 Apr]* 45

Thailand

Prime Minister Speaks on Government Priorities *[BANGKOK POST 26 Apr]* 45
Holds News Conference *[BANGKOK POST 26 Apr]* 47
Discusses U.S. Trade Dispute *[Bangkok TV]* 48
Ministers Appeal to U.S. on Trade Issues *[THE NATION 26 Apr]* 49
Editorial Condemns U.S. 'Arm-Twisting' on Trade *[THE NATION 26 Apr]* 49
Foreign Minister on Hun Sen Trip, Trade Dispute *[Bangkok TV]* 50
Anan To 'Persuade' Cambodians To Attend Talks *[THE NATION 26 Apr]* 51
Editorial Supports Talks With SRV on Cambodia *[SIAM RAT 25 Apr]* 51
Joint Border Committee With Burma Ends Session 52
New Border Pass To Open *[Radio VOFA]* 52
Envoy on Bilateral Ties *[Radio VOFA]* 52

Vietnam

Cambodia Cease-Fire Proposal 'Positive Step' *[Hanoi International]* 52
Further Reportage on Visit of Indian President 53
Vo Chi Cong Reception Speech *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
Talks With Vo Chi Cong *[VNA]* 54
Welcomed at Mass Meeting *[VNA]* 54
Received by Nguyen Van Linh *[VNA]* 55
Meets Do Muoi *[VNA]* 55
Nguyen Van Linh To Visit Soviet Union in May *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 55
Interior Ministry Officials Receive Cuban Medals *[VNA]* 55
Hanoi Congress Opens; Nguyen Van Linh Attends *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Nguyen Van Linh Visits Lang Son Province *[Hanoi Radio]* 56

AUSTRALASIA

New Zealand

French Prime Minister's Upcoming Visit Analyzed *[AFP]* 59

Papua New Guinea

Prime Minister Urges Withdrawal of Union Threat *[Melbourne International]* 59

Japan

Minesweepers Leave Yokosuka for Persian Gulf

OW2604015291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0138 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, April 26 KYODO—Two minesweepers and a supply ship being sent by Japan to the Persian Gulf left their home port in Yokosuka, 40 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, on Friday morning. The three ships will rendezvous with two other minesweepers and a support ship off Kyushu on Monday before sailing for the Gulf, where they will help clear mines laid by Iraq.

It is the first overseas mission by the Self-Defense Forces since they were formed in 1954.

The two Yokosuka-based minesweepers—the Awashima and the Sakushima—and the 8,150-ton supply ship Tokiwa were seen off in a farewell ceremony attended by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, deputy chief cabinet secretary Tadamori Oshima, and the deputy director general of the Defense Agency, Tomoharu Yoda. Hundreds of the crews' family members also waved them farewell from the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) Yokosuka base next to U.S. Navy facilities.

Civic groups opposed to the dispatch of the minesweepers staged demonstrations around the MSDF base, with some demonstrators taking to boats and voicing their protests from waters around the base.

The three other ships taking part in the mission will leave their ports in southern Japan on Friday afternoon. The flagship of the group, the 2,000-ton support ship Hayase, with a crew of 180 officers and sailors, will leave from the MSDF base in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, followed by the minesweeper Hikoshima, which is also based at Kure. The fourth minesweeper, the Yurishima, will sail from the MSDF base at Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture. The four minesweepers range in size from 450 to 490 tons and each has a crew of 45.

The six ships will rendezvous off Amami Island in Kyushu on Monday. They will make port calls in the Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan on their 13,000-kilometer journey to the Gulf. The voyage is expected to take about 30 days, MSDF officials said. The Japanese group is to be deployed in the Gulf for about six months, they said.

Kaifu Voices Encouragement

OW2604080491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0713 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Four Japanese minesweepers deployed to assist with the postwar cleanup in the Persian Gulf embarked Friday on the first leg of their monthlong journey to the Middle East with words of encouragement from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

In a brief speech delivered for the prime minister by Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Tadamori Oshima, Kaifu stressed the importance of the minesweeping mission in maintaining a free flow of oil supplies for Japan and the world. Kaifu added that the task force deployment was further meaningful as a "human contribution" to multinational efforts by Japan, which had been stung by criticism throughout the Gulf crisis for failing to provide a "visible" contribution. "Our efforts are significant as one human contribution which our nation has been asked for, growing out of our important responsibilities to international society," the Kaifu address said.

Two minesweepers and a supply ship left their home port of Yokosuka, 40 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, Friday morning following a ceremony attended by Oshima, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, and Deputy Director General of the Defense Agency Tomoharu Yoda. The two Yokosuka-based minesweepers—the Awashima and the Sakushima—and the 8,150-ton supply ship Tokiwa will rendezvous with two other minesweepers and a support ship off Kyushu on Monday before sailing for the Gulf for the first overseas mission for purposes other than training involving Self-Defense Forces (SDF) since their founding in 1954.

Civic groups opposed to the dispatch of the minesweepers staged demonstrations on land around the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) base in Yokosuka, while others took to rubber dinghies to voice their protests from the waters around the base. One protester shouted from his boat, "Please don't go with the Japanese flag flying," before being intercepted by Maritime Safety Agency patrol boats.

Three other ships taking part in the mission left their ports in southern Japan on Friday afternoon. The flagship of the group, the 2,000-ton Hayase, with a crew of 180 officers and sailors, set sail from the MSDF base in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, followed by the minesweeper Yurishima, also based at the Hiroshima naval base.

The fourth minesweeper, the Hikoshima, set sail from the MSDF base at Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture. The four minesweepers range in size from 450 to 490 tons and each has a crew of 45.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto was dispatched to Kure to deliver Kaifu's address to the departing sailors.

Some 20 members of the radical Zengakuren student organization demonstrated outside the base, chanting "The Middle East deployment is unforgivable," and "cancel the deployment."

The six ships will rendezvous off Amami Oshima island in Kyushu on Monday. They will make port calls in the Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan on their 13,000-kilometer journey to the Gulf. The voyage is

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receive 3,700 yen
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20 million yen per person in the event
se of duty. Ikeda said crew members
eepers would receive an additional
during their operations in the Gulf.
ers of the support ships will each
daily. Should any of the sailors or
the vessels hit a mine or meet with
the course of operations, surviving
entitled to up to 20 million yen in
the government, Ikeda said.

Southeast Asian Agreement Cited

OW2604073291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0657 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 26 KYODO—Southeast Asian nations have agreed to allow Japanese minesweepers to pass through their waters after receiving assurances that their mission to clear mines in the Persian Gulf will contribute to international maritime safety, according to government officials in several countries in the region. However, the officials stopped short of welcoming the mission, reflecting their wariness of Japanese forces going abroad.

A senior Malaysian Foreign Ministry official contacted Friday said, "Japan consulted all countries along the route—the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, and Malaysia—last week to get their agreement." "Malaysia agreed as we see this not as a military exercise or part of a war effort, but as Japan's contribution to international maritime safety," he said.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said Thursday, "We are convinced that this has nothing to do with military combat operations."

There has been no official comment so far from Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the dispatch of minesweepers, but a source, who did not want to be identified, said the government has agreed to allow the minesweepers to call in to Singapore while en route to the Gulf. Meanwhile, a senior Singaporean diplomat and academic told KYODO News Service on Thursday that he welcomed Japan's decision to send the minesweepers to the Gulf. Ambassador-at-large Tommy Koh, expressing a personal view, added, however, that Japan needs to show extreme caution in order to avoid rekindling fears left behind by its invasion and occupation of Southeast Asian countries during World War II.

Singapore's largest circulating Chinese daily, LIANHE ZAOBAO, said in an editorial Friday that some countries suspect that Japan's real motive for dispatching minesweepers to the Gulf is to set precedent for sending its troops abroad.

Four minesweepers and two support ships set sail from three Japanese ports Friday and will rendezvous on Monday to set out on their monthlong journey to the Persian Gulf, where they will help clear mines planted by the Iraqi military. On their 13,000-kilometer journey to the Gulf, the ships will call at Subic Bay in the Philippines, Penang in Malaysia, Colombo in Sri Lanka, and Karachi in Pakistan for fuel and food supplies.

Officials from some Southeast Asian countries have expressed concern about the implications of what is the first overseas dispatch of military forces by Japan since the Self-Defense Forces were formed in 1954. Memories of Japanese military aggression during World War II have made Southeast Asian countries wary about Japan sending armed forces abroad, with some commentators voicing concern about a resurgence of militarism in Japan.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who leaves on Saturday for a 10-day tour of Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines, is expected to seek to assuage some of these fears with an expression of Japan's contrition for its wartime actions.

The Malaysian official, who said Japan's minesweeping expertise is ranked among the most sophisticated in the world, said, "It is unfortunate that the minesweepers belong to the Japanese armed forces, but which company in the private sector has minesweepers?" He added, "The Japanese minesweepers will benefit overall international shipping which is still not normalized in the Gulf region and this will help the trade of countries in this region with the Gulf countries to resume."

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has welcomed the Japanese decision, which has also won praise from the United States.

The official Chinese News Agency XINHUA, however, said on Tuesday that the dispatch of the minesweepers would expand Japan's military influence in Asia, and called it "A dangerous first step in sending troops overseas."

Newspapers Urge Caution

OW2504133191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Major Japanese newspapers called for brake [as received] in overseas deployment of the Self- Defense Forces (SDF) in their Thursday editorials.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN, MAINICHI SHIMBUN, YOMIURI SHIMBUN and NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN were all commenting on Wednesday's government decision to dispatch SDF's minesweepers to the Persian Gulf to help clear mines laid by Iraq.

The ASAHI said it has hoped [for] a sincere debate on the issue at the Diet because the dispatch of minesweepers to the Gulf may lead to a major change in Japan's security policy and has called for establishment of a legal brake to prevent a move to push a constant overseas deployment of the SDF. "However, the government statement issued at a time when the decision of the dispatch was made was far from dispelling such doubts and anxieties among the people. Especially, no concrete legal limit was incorporated and it will cause trouble later," the ASAHI said. "It is regrettable that leaders of the government and the Liberal Democratic Party did not show a modest attitude that (the dispatch) will be implemented after gaining consensus among the people," the editorial said.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN described it reasonable for Japan to cooperate with international minesweeping operations in the Gulf at a peacetime as part of Japan's contribution, but that there are doubts in manner that lacks legislative measures and national consensus.

The MAINICHI said it had called for the dispatch of Japan's minesweepers to the Gulf only after establishing a special legislation which will limit region, purpose, and period of the dispatch. It is the duty of the government to carry out debates in the Diet and make efforts to gain national consensus but the way the government took this time is not democratic, it said.

The MAINICHI called for enough Diet debates and a clear brake because the decision involves the nucleus of Japan's security policy. The MAINICHI also called on the government to seek understanding from neighboring Asian countries by explaining that the dispatch is part of Japan's international cooperation from humanitarian standpoints.

The YOMIURI said, "It is only natural for Japan, which depends 70 percent of its oil imports on the Gulf region [as received], to participate in minesweeping and secure the safe passage of Japanese ships." Japan should have made a decision much earlier and the government, ruling, and opposition parties must take the lead in doing what should be done, it said.

The YOMIURI said Japan has no intention and ability to invade other countries and that there is no fascism in Japan trying to overthrow democracy by force or a bud of a revival of militarism. Japan should listen to opinions of Asian countries but if Japan explains sufficiently its real intention, they will surely understand, it said.

Japan independently made the decision of dispatch of minesweepers without U.S. requests and the decision must be the first step for Japan to carry out what should be done whether or not there were foreign requests, the YOMIURI said.

The NIHON KEIZAI said it is significant that Japan's participation in minesweeping in the Gulf is not only part of its international cooperation, but also aims at securing safety of Japanese ships. The economic daily, however, pointed out the danger of escalation of overseas deployment of the SDF.

The government sets the legal ground of the dispatch of minesweepers to the Gulf on the 66th Clause [as received] of the SDF Law but it is clear that the law intends seas near Japan, the NIHON KEIZAI said. The paper said it has called for revision of the SDF Law to allow dispatch of SDF minesweepers to the Gulf but the government avoided the revision, a provisional legislation, or a Diet resolution to prevent an escalation of overseas deployment of the SDF.

South Korea, Japan Agree on U.S. Consultations

SK2504063391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 (YONHAP)—Foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan agreed Thursday to form a regular channel of tripartite policy consultations with the United States for talks on a restructuring of order in Northeast Asia following the Gulf War, Korean sources said.

In their second round of talks, Minister Yi Sang-ok of Korea and Taro Nakayama of Japan agreed that such a formation was needed to take joint steps in the wake of the rapidly changing political climate in Northeast Asia especially on and around the Korean Peninsula, the sources said.

Nakayama told Yi that his government would positively support South Korea's bid for a United Nations membership if North Korea continues to reject Seoul's call for simultaneous entry into the world body and that Japan-North Korean ties would not be pursued at the price of Japan-South Korean relations.

"Our government also believes that North Korea's call to share a single U.N. seat with South Korea is unrealistic. Our government will urge North Korea through direct and indirect means to enter the United Nations together with South Korea, but if North Korea sticks to its position and if South Korea files an application for a membership this fall alone, we will support South Korea's bid," a Korean source quoted Nakayama as telling Yi.

Yi told the Japanese minister that China was making much of the fact that South Korea abstained from submitting a U.N. membership application last year in consideration of Beijing's position. China is a staunch ally of North Korea. "China has to consider its relations with North Korea, but China would make a decision on

our U.N. Membership bid also considering the majority of nations' support for us," Yi said.

Touching on normalization talks between Japan and North Korea, Minister Nakayama said his government believed that the two countries should normalize relations in a way contributing to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and "with blessings" from the surrounding countries. "Our government is well aware that Japan-North Korea relations should in no way hamper our friendly and cooperative relations with the Republic of Korea," Nakayama was quoted as saying.

The sources said the tripartite consultations would be focused on countermeasures for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal of a multilateral security system in Asia and the Pacific. The talks will also center on the possible signing of a "good neighborhood" treaty between South Korea and the Soviet Union, the negotiations between Japan and North Korea over normalization of ties, and improvement of U.S.-North Korea relations, the sources said.

Japan proposed to form the tripartite channel of policy consultations to South Korea last January during Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's visit to Seoul, but only obtained a reserved response.

A Korean diplomat said Japan had earlier planned to make the United States play a supportive role in the tripartite talks but had shifted to recognize it as an equal member as Seoul-Moscow ties are growing closer after Gorbachev's visit to Korean island of Cheju last week.

Yi and Nakayama also agreed to resume regular consultations between directors-general for Asian affairs at their ministries to let them work out follow-up measures to a set of broad agreements made between No and Kaifu at the end of their Seoul meeting.

The two ministers decided to hold the first meeting of the bilateral committee on trade and industrial technical cooperation, whose creation was agreed during the No-Kaifu summit, in Tokyo June 17-18 to discuss trade imbalance and transfer of industrial technology. South Korea's trade with Japan recorded a 6.09 billion U.S. dollar deficit on a customs clearance basis last year, up 52.6 percent from the previous year. The aggregate total between 1981 and 1990 reached 38.3 billion dollars.

Yi told Nakayama that Seoul wants to start cultural exchanges with classical arts and then proceed to film and other fields of popular culture. They also agreed to hold events commemorating the dispatch of Korean diplomats to Japan late last century and to activate cultural and personnel exchanges between cities and provinces in each other's countries.

MITI: 'Headway' Made Toward U.S. Chip Pact

OW2604030391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. trade negotiators made a great deal of headway toward a new bilateral semiconductor agreement, but still failed to finalize the pact, an official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Friday.

"There has been major progress in the talks, but, regrettably, no agreement was reached," said Hirobumi Kawano, director of MITI's Americas Division.

Naomichi Suzuki, MITI's vice minister for international affairs, and Linn Williams, deputy U.S. trade representative, will meet again later in the day to wrap up the fourth round of talks on the new chip accord, Kawano said. The next meeting will probably be held in Washington at the earliest date possible after the golden week holiday period next week, he said.

The two sides held intensive negotiations all night to forge a new chip agreement to replace the current pact, whose five-year term expires at the end of July.

There remain some differences in attitude on almost every aspect of the negotiations despite the big advance, Kawano said. One of the largest snags to a pact is the U.S. insistence on keeping in place the remaining sanctions against Japanese electronics exports because of alleged violations of the current agreement. Tokyo insists it will not agree to a new pact unless the punitive tariffs on japanese electronics products are lifted.

Kawano said Washington did not give any indication it might scrap the 100 percent tariffs on Japanese personal computers or other electronics exports.

Hashimoto To Stress 'Balanced' Policies to Brady

OW2504135891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto will stress the importance of balanced economic policies giving equal weight to inflation and economic growth at his upcoming meeting with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, a high-ranking Finance Ministry official said Thursday.

The official also said the meeting, scheduled for Sunday just prior to a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations, will focus on the foreign exchange market and the worldwide fund shortage.

Hashimoto and Brady will be in Washington to attend the G-7 meeting and the series of financial meetings including the spring conference of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"There is concern that G-7 countries are split over economic policies. In view of this, the meeting will discuss the foreign exchange market," he said.

The G-7 countries are widely divided on the issue on future economic policies raised by Brady at the recent informal meeting of the G-7 finance ministers in London.

Apparently to induce a U.S. credit easing, Brady argued that the seven countries—the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, and Canada—should concentrate their economic policies on fighting slow economic growth rather than inflation, pressing for an early cut in interest rates. While France and Italy backed his call, Germany, Britain, and Canada, in the belief that containing inflation is the primary concern of economic policy, strongly opposed it.

Hashimoto made it clear that Japan would retain a neutral macroeconomic policy for the time being.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said the ministry supports an idea to form a fund financed by the IMF's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) aimed at meeting the growing fund demand worldwide. "We are thinking of making use of the SDRs as a stop-gap measure to fill the fund shortage," the official said.

Japan, France, and Italy have proposed the establishment of a new fund in the IMF and the World Bank to respond to the surging fund demand from the war-devastated Middle East nations, as well as the East European economies, and the debt-ridden Latin American nations.

The SDRs, introduced in 1970 as a substitute for gold in international payments, are allocated to IMF members in proportion to their quotas. The value of SDRs, now at 1.4 U.S. dollars, is based on a basket of currencies of the five largest exporters (currently the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, and France). Worried that excessive liquidity might cause added inflationary pressure, the IMF has suspended new issues of SDRs since 1982.

Pledges Boost in Funds for ADB

OW2604010491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0046 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Vancouver, Canada, April 25 KYODO—Japan intends to increase its contribution to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help it respond to the region's need for capital, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Thursday.

Hashimoto told the 24th annual meeting of the 51-nation regional bank in Vancouver that "the world's attention may be so caught up in the capital needs of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Gulf region that we are apt to neglect...the pressing needs of other developing regions."

He indicated he expects the three-day ADB meeting, which ends Friday, to provide an opportunity to consider the outlook for the supply and demand situation for financial resources in the Asia-Pacific region and all corners of the globe. He said he hopes other countries will also bear their fair share in the sixth replenishment—now being debated—of the Asian Development Fund (ADF), the bank's financial resources to lend on concessionary terms to the least-developed member states.

Expanding on his remarks, a Japanese official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Japan hopes newly industrializing nations will help in the planned replenishment.

Hashimoto also said he hopes the countries that have large, destitute populations but have not thus far had access to the ADF will be able to get help from the fund.

The countries include China and India, said the Japanese official. However, the official said the United States and some European member nations of the ADB believe it is still "premature" to approve such access for China.

Western nations imposed a ban on lending to China after the military crackdown on Beijing's pro-democracy movement in June 1989. Since then only one ADB loan has been extended to China.

The official indicated that the ADB may approve lending for a bridge project in Shanghai as early as the end of May, although he did not specify the amount of the loan.

Hashimoto cited as problems facing the ADB poverty, the fostering of private-sector activity, protecting the environment, and the role of women in development. In particular, he emphasized the need to reconcile the needs of economic growth and the needs of environmental protection to achieve sustainable growth. Referring to what he called Japan's "bitter experiences" with environmental problems in the 1960s, Hashimoto said, "I very much hope that the developing member countries will gain from Japan's experience and that they will make a major effort for environmental protection."

Rules Out Monetary Policy Change

OW2604022191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0217 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Vancouver, April 25 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Thursday Japan's monetary stance will remain basically unchanged at least for the time being.

Meeting with Japanese reporters in Vancouver, where he is attending the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank, Hashimoto said, "since Japan is now trying hard to contain land price spirals, I see no reason to change monetary policy right now." He reiterated that he is more concerned about the risk of economic slowdown in Japan rather than inflation, but that the government is making an all-out effort to curb land prices. Unless land prices are curbed, the Japanese Government's 10-year, 430 trillion yen public works spending will fall short of earlier expectations, he said.

Hashimoto is to leave for Washington on Friday to attend a meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations on Sunday. The gathering of finance ministers and central bankers from the seven—Japan, the United

States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada—is expected to deal mainly with the outlook for interest rates and foreign exchange rates.

Asked to comment on reports that U.S. President George Bush called on Japan to lower its interest rates during talks with former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Hashimoto said he could not comment, but added, "I'm ready to consider the reported remarks if they were made in general terms."

Hashimoto also said he intends to propose at the G-7 meeting the allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRS) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to needy nations "as a temporary measure." "But the allocation should be conditional on the completion of the general review of the ninth capital increase," Hashimoto said.

He said Japan is now considering a framework for allocating SDRs with some conditions attached.

The SDR was introduced in 1970 as a substitute for gold in international payments, and is allocated to IMF members in proportion to their quotas.

Okinawans Reject Enforced Use of Military Land

OW2504203091 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Today, representatives of the organizations that sponsored the prefectural residents' meeting for demanding rejection of public notification procedures, which was held on 19 April, once again appealed to Governor Ota to reject the instruction to issue the public notification on extending enforced use of land for military purposes. Among the people who appealed to Governor Ota today are representatives from the eight organizations that sponsored the prefectural residents' meeting for demanding rejection of public notification procedures on 19 April, including the prefectural headquarters of the Social Democratic Party of Japan, the prefectural council of the Communist Party of Japan, the Okinawa Socialist Masses Party, the Center for the Prefectural Labor Unions, and the Conference for Joint Struggle Against Unconstitutional Use of Land for Military Purpose.

While handing over to Governor Ota the resolution adopted at the prefectural residents meeting held on 19 April, the representatives appealed that agreement to issue the public notification will be tantamount to cooperation in enforcing the use of land for military purposes and will violate his election commitment to demand the overall withdrawal of military bases. They further held that Okinawa residents suffered tragic experiences in the last war and they requested the governor not to agree to the instruction for issuing the public notification which will lead to enforced use of land for the military purpose.

In response, Governor Ota stated that since there are concerns over the possibility that the refusal to issue such a notification may influence future programs for developing Okinawa, the prefectural government is studying this issue with great caution now.

Deputy Foreign Minister Owada Meets Hun Sen

OW2604102391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has had "free-wheeling" discussions with a senior Foreign Ministry official and will be leaving Japan for Thailand on Saturday, ministry sources said Friday.

Sources said the leader of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, who arrived in Tokyo on Sunday, met Thursday evening with Deputy Foreign Minister Hirashi Owada. They had "a quite frank and free-wheeling exchange of views," in which Hun Sen outlined his opposition to parts of the Cambodian peace plan drafted last year by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the sources said.

Owada urged the Cambodian leader to accept a set of Japanese proposals designed to make the UN plan, which has already been accepted by the tripartite resistance coalition, easier for Phnom Penh to swallow, the sources said. The plan calls for disarming of the government and three guerrilla factions, and for the United Nations to take over many administrative functions in Cambodia during a period leading up to elections.

Hun Sen arrived in Tokyo last Sunday, primarily for a medical checkup, though he met with another Foreign Ministry official Monday. He told reporters Friday that he has undergone tests in a Tokyo hospital for the "real health problem I have had since last December." He did not identify the problem, but he is believed to be suffering from high blood pressure.

Hun Sen was quoted as saying his government needs clear assurances that there will be no return to the inhumane policies practiced by the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the three anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla factions, during its bloody 1975-78 rule over Cambodia. He said concrete political and military arrangements must be established to guarantee that the Khmer Rouge cannot exploit the opportunity provided under the UN plan and seize power.

The Foreign Ministry sources described the talks as "very interesting" and "impressive." "We have learned a lot from the conversation and hope that Mr. Hun Sen has also learned a little bit," said one official. But they stressed that the talks were unofficial, calling them "purely exploratory" and "noncommittal."

Hun Sen was to leave Tokyo for Bangkok on Saturday, the sources said, adding that his visit to Thailand will not be merely a transit stop. It will be the Cambodian premier's first visit to the neighboring Kingdom since the Thai military overthrew Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan in February.

Officials Confirm PRC Invitation to Yi Sang-ok

OW2504134091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1527 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—China has invited South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok to visit Beijing next year for a general meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), a U.N. regional commission, Japanese officials said Thursday. Yi, now in Tokyo for regular talks, told Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama about the invitation, the officials said.

China will host the ESCAP meeting in Beijing in April 1992.

If the invitation is accepted, Yi will be the first South Korean foreign minister ever to go to China, with which South Korea has no diplomatic ties.

North Korean Talks To Resume in Beijing 20 May

OW2604081291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0731 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japan and North Korea will hold their third round of normalization [talks] in Beijing on May 20-21, Foreign Ministry sources said Friday. The two countries held the first round of talks in Pyongyang in January and the second round in Tokyo in March.

The two sides remain divided over North Korea's demand for compensation for postwar "losses" allegedly inflicted by Japan as well as for Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, and Japan's insistence that North Korea allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

The two countries are also expected to discuss Korean membership in the United Nations.

China Expected To Receive Pending ADB Loans

OW2604024491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 26 Apr 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Vancouver, April 25 KYODO—China will receive at least one of two pending loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) next month, Japanese officials said Thursday.

A senior Japanese Finance Ministry official said Japan expects a 70 million dollar loan to China from the ADB to build a bridge in Shanghai will be approved at the bank's next board meeting in Manila in May.

Japan, the ADB's largest lender, is also pressing for approval of an ADB loan of 67.5 million dollars for a railway project in Guangzhou to help facilitate China's economic development, the official said.

China had anticipated the approval of the two loans before the ADB opened an annual meeting here on Wednesday. But the United States and several West European countries have questioned if the two ADB loans could contribute to economic activities in China because of the slow pace of its economic reforms and alleged human rights abuses.

In a speech to the annual ADB meeting, Li Guoxian, governor of the People's Bank of China, criticized the Manila-based bank for being "regrettably slow in resuming lending to China." "It is all too obvious that the bank's lending to China is far from being restored to its normal level," he told the meeting. "This abnormal phenomenon has affected not only the cooperation between the bank and China, but also contravenes the spirit of the bank's charter and impairs the integrity of the bank," Li said.

Li dropped from his original speech text a sentence praising the bank for its two loans to China because of the failure to agree on the loans among the major donor countries by the time of the current meeting.

The ADB halted lending to China in the wake of the Tiananmen Square suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in June 1989. It provided China with a 50 million dollar loan to modernize agricultural production facilities last November.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, in a meeting with Li, pledged Japan's support for the ADB loans, which he said should be forthcoming in the near future, and urged China to fully explain the need for the loans to skeptical ADB member countries.

Hashimoto is expected to call for the resumption of ADB lending to China in talks with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and other Group of Seven (G-7) Finance Ministers on Sunday. In his address to the ADB parley, Hashimoto said he was "pleased to see a steady resumption of world bank lending to China." "And I hope that the ADB will also do what it can to support such efforts for economic reforms in Asia's most populous country," he told delegates from the bank's 51 member countries and guests.

Li, the chief Chinese delegate, was adamant that his country will carry out economic reform at its own pace. "In the course of economic reforms and development, we will learn from all useful ideas and experiences of other countries, but it would certainly be unwise to duplicate models from other countries," he said.

Official Favors Visa-Free Visits by Islanders

OW2504134391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1205 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan should allow the Soviets living on a group of Japanese-claimed islands to visit Hokkaido, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he would favor allowing the residents of Kunashiri, Etorofu, and Shikotan islands, as well as the

Habomai group, to visit Hokkaido as part of a Soviet-proposed deal under which Japanese would be allowed to visit the islands without visas. The official said the islanders might be allowed to visit Hokkaido—but not the rest of Japan—without visas, but this has not been decided.

The two countries now require each other's citizens to have visas for entry, and Soviets are not allowed to travel directly from the northern islands to Hokkaido. The islands, off Hokkaido, were seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

Allowing the islanders to visit Hokkaido, the official said, would give them a better understanding of Japan and ease their anxieties about a prospective transfer of sovereignty over the islands to Japan as part of a future Japanese-Soviet peace treaty.

Political analysts say Japan is keen to win over the islanders in recognition of the increased importance of public opinion in the Soviet decision-making process. In a recent Soviet referendum, the overwhelming majority of the residents on the islands opposed their transfer to Japan. Only 27.5 percent on Shikotan were in favor.

The Foreign Ministry official was cautious on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal earlier this month in Tokyo to allow visa-free entry of Japanese to the islands. He said Japan wants to follow up on the proposal but it would have to make certain that such visits would not undermine Japan's claims to the islands.

The government has long been opposed to Japanese visiting the islands on Soviet visas as it feels that such a practice might be viewed by Moscow as recognition that the islands are Soviet territory. The Foreign Ministry has punished Japanese journalists who visited the islands on Soviet visas by excluding them from background briefings by senior officials. Moscow has made an exception for Japanese visiting gravesites on the islands to mourn relatives who died there.

Hungarian Minister Assures Kaifu on Debts

OW 2604100290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—A senior Hungarian cabinet minister assured Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday that his government intends to make full payments on debts owed to Japan, and will not follow Poland in seeking forgiveness of debts, a Foreign Ministry official said. Balazs Horvath, minister without portfolio, also called for more private investment from Japan, the official said. Hungary owes some 10 billion dollars to Japan, mostly to private banks, according to James Rozsa, press secretary at the Hungarian Embassy. The sum accounts for nearly half of Hungary's total 20 billion dollar foreign debt.

Rozsa said that by proving itself creditworthy, Hungary hopes to attract a larger portion of Japanese investment aimed at Eastern Europe. Last month Japan took part reluctantly in an agreement worked out by Western governments to halve Poland's 33 billion dollar foreign debt.

Kaifu in the meeting with Horvath encouraged the Hungarian leadership to persist with the difficult task of transforming the semi-centrally planned economy into a market economy.

Japan accounts for under 10 percent of foreign investment in Hungary.

Hungary became host this week to the largest Japanese joint venture in Eastern Europe when Suzuki Motor Co. and Hungarian Autoker Inc. launched the Magyar Suzuki Corp., a 10 billion yen project expected to manufacture 15,000 cars in 1992.

Horvath was accompanied by a four-member delegation of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the most influential party in a three- party coalition government. The party members are in Japan through Sunday to meet policy- makers and business leaders at the invitation of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Also joining the delegation is Defense Minister Lajos Fur.

Trade between Japan and Hungary amounted to about 270 million dollars last year.

Nakasone Rejoins LDP After Quitting Over Scandal

OW 2604105490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0535 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was welcomed back into the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Friday in a move widely seen as paving the way for the return to power of Recruit-tainted politicians when Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's term expires this fall.

LDP Secretary General Kozo Obuchi declined to give a reason for the reinstatement of Nakasone, who left the party in May 1989 to "take responsibility" for the Recruit share-trading scandal that began unfolding in the summer of 1986 while he was prime minister.

Nakasone, 72, served as prime minister for five years up to November 1987.

In the scandal Recruit, an information conglomerate, was found to have distributed over 1.5 billion yen to politicians, business executives, and government officials. Twelve people, including two politicians, were charged in the scandal, and many of Japan's most influential politicians voluntarily withdrew from political center stage in an act of penance.

Kaifu said Nakasone's reinstatement would not affect his political reform program, adding he will draw up a bill on political reform and send it to the Diet "as soon as possible."

Prof. Nobuo Sakagami, a political scientist at Tokyo Gakugei University, said that the decision by the LDP's

Ethics Committee to accept Nakasone back was part of maneuvering to select a new LDP president in October.

The president of the LDP automatically serves as prime minister because of the party's majority in the house of representatives.

"Nakasone is a symbolic politician in the Recruit scandal. If his position is restored, then others may also be cleared of the scandal," Sakagami said.

Other politicians who were implicated, though not charged, in the scandal include potential candidates for the LDP presidency Kiichi Miyazawa, Michio Watanabe, and former Prime Minister Nobuo Takeshita, who resigned as prime minister in 1989 when the scandal was ravaging the party's credibility.

Takeshita selected Kaifu to take over and give the party a "clean" image after his immediate successor, Sousuke Uno, resigned in the wake of a sex scandal and a loss by the party in an election for the House of Councillors.

Kaifu has staunchly refused to allow into his cabinet any scandal-tainted politician, including rising hopeful Koko Sato, who was convicted in the Lockheed scandal.

Kaifu 'Still Is Resolved' on Political Reform

OW2504131391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1039 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Thursday he still is resolved to push ahead with a political and electoral reform plan.

Kaifu, speaking at a general meeting of all Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] members of both houses of the Diet, said the governing party should give top priority to implementing political reforms. Kaifu also called for the party to draft relevant bills for reform as soon as possible.

LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi said he will arrange more meetings in early May between Kaifu and other party members to discuss the issue.

In December, the LDP announced a political and electoral reform plan featuring a reduction of the number of seats in the House of Representatives and the introduction of a combined single-seat constituency and proportional representation system for lower house elections. Under the LDP plan, the number of seats in the powerful lower house would drop to 471 from 512.

Economic Growth Continues for 53d Month

OW2604011191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0056 GMT 26 APR 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Although going at a slower pace, Japan's economy marked its 53rd month of continuous expansion in April, nearing the record it set from November 1965 to July 1970 when growth was uninterrupted for 57 months, a goverment report said Friday. The monthly economic report, prepared by the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] and endorsed by the cabinet, said domestic demand was steady, with personal consumption on a firm trend, while plant and equipment investment continued to grow.

An EPA official said, however, that there were signs corporate managers are getting cautious about their capital spending. Leading companies plan to increase the spending by just a 1.1 percent in current fiscal 1991, compared with the estimated 21.2 percent jump in the previous fiscal year, according to a recent quarterly survey by the Bank of Japan.

Industrial production stayed on an uptrend, and the number of employed workers gained. Corporate profits, despite declines in some industries, stood at high levels, the report said. On the other hand, housing starts, although still strong, dropped 10.5 percent in February from January. The country's money supply growth rate slowed down to a year-on-year increase of 4.9 percent in march from a rise of 5.5 percent in January due mainly to tight credit conditions.

Wholesale prices remain steady, thanks to shrinking oil prices, while lower prices for leisure and entertainment services stablized consumer prices.

Toshiba Develops 3-Dimensional LSI Circuit

OW2604062691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0552 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. said Friday it has developed an experimental three-dimensional Large Scale Integrated (LSI) Circuit, a device that could surpass conventional chips in density and operation speed. Toshiba officials said once the device is commercialized, it will be ideal for use in superparallel processing, neural networks, and real-time image processing for future computers. The new chip, developed for parallel processing of image signals, integrates a million transistors on a five-layered 9.5 millimeter square chip and operates five times faster than conventional chips, the company claimed. Toshiba researchers used advanced electron beam and interconnecting tungsten wiring technology to build the circuit, company officials said.

Fiberoptic Makers Plan To Supply Cable To Homes

OW2604034691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 26 Apr 91

[By Dennis Pidge]

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Japanese manufacturers are leaping into the future as they rush to expand fiberoptic telecommunications to every home in the country early in the next century. At stake is a market worth trillions of yen and Japan's reputation as the high-tech heart of the world.

Glass fiber makers are betting on 10-20 percent growth rate in fiscal 1991 and thereafter as businesses, government and families demand better and faster telephone, television and computer services.

Sumitomo Electric Industries, Furukawa Electric Co., Fujikura Ltd. and other producers shipped 1.5 million kilometers of glass fiber in 1990, 78.6 percent more than the 847,000 kilometers shipped in 1989, according to the Japan Electric Wire and Cable Maker's Association.

Sumitomo's Kazunori Tokuda says, "Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp.'s (NTT) fiber-to-the-home project and local area network communications to government, businesses and factories has brought an explosion in the domestic market."

Optical fiber carries much more data than standard copper wire—a single strand of fiber can carry up to 32,000 simultaneous telephone voices compared to 24 on copper wire. Fiber is more efficient than microwave transmissions systems and experiences no electrical interference such as noise, echo, or delays, which can plague copper and satellites.

So far, about 60,000 kilometers of optical fiber has been used for long-distance telephone service, cable television and enhanced data flow between large computers used by government, businesses and factories in Japan. In addition, it has already invaded telecommunications equipment, computers, data storage and printers, audio-visual equipment, automobiles and medical care, and military operations.

For Japan's 50 million telephone subscribers, fiber-to-the-home would make available a broadband integrated services digital network, a telecommunications systems which will include cable television, television-telephones and the much ballyhooed high definition television.

"NTT's future fiber-to-the-home project will produce a market worth about 15 trillion yen to manufacturers by the year 2015," says Keiichiro Takemoto, an analyst at Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc.

Sumitomo's fiber product sales rose about 19 percent to 53 billion yen in fiscal 1990, compared with 43 billion yen in 1989. It will complete a 10 billion yen plant in Yokohama in 1992 to boost production capacity.

Fujikura had sales of 35 billion yen in fiscal 1990, up about 28 percent from 27 billion yen in fiscal 1989. The company has a new plant under construction in Sakura, Chiba to increase fiber production for NTT's project. In addition, the company quadrupled its investment in production facilities for fiber products, from 1.6 billion yen to 6.4 billion yen in March 1991.

Other manufacturers' sales leaped to a total 59 billion yen, about 20 percent more than the 47 billion yen in fiscal 1989.

Last month, NTT selected Sumitomo, Furukawa Electric, Fujikura and U S.-based Seicor Corp. to develop a new optical fiber cable and connectors that will be used for connecting fiber-to-the-home in the ate 1990s. The giant telephone company already has installed more than 40,000 kilometers of cable in Japan and plans to install more.

Teleway Japan Corp. plans to spend 100 billion yen to run long- haul telephone optical fiber cables from Hokkaido to Kyushu, according to Japan's Nihon Kogyo Shimbun, an industrial publication.

Daini-Denden Inc. and Japan Telecom Co. already plan to increase orders of optical fiber for their long-distance networks.

Japan Cable TV Ltd. (JCTV) already sends television signals for programs such as Ted Turner's Cable News Network over fiber and then to stations which broadcast to viewers in Tokyo. The company also plans to expand its optical fiber transmission lines.

Masafumi Negishi, a JCTV network official, says, "fiber removes the ghost on the screen and provides a clearer picture." But fiber-to-the-home will not become a reality until it hits the curb, or roadsides in the year 2000, experts say.

"Long-distance trunk lines using fiber optic cables are relatively inexpensive today but fiber-to-the-home is still too costly," says NTT engineer Hidetoshi Shirakawa.

Installation prices for optical fiber cable must fall for widespread home use. Local loops to homes require more connective devices to connect small lengths of fiber and prices for these products must decline.

Sumitomo's Tokuda says, "although manufacturing costs in japan for fiber have tumbled to 50 yen a meter in fiscal 1990 from 1,000 yen in fiscal 1985, prices must come down further." Two years ago, a Mitsubishi Research Institute report estimated that fiberoptic cable would not be practical for home use until it cost 10 yen a meter.

North Korea

Beijing Broadcast Discusses Korean Reunification

SK2604063791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Today, Beijing Radio broadcast an item supporting the reunification of Korea.

The broadcast reads: It has been almost half a century since Korea was artificially divided into North and South. Compatriots in the North and South have suffered the separation of their ancestry. Therefore, reunifying the divided fatherland is the most pressing and most common aspiration of the Korean people. For a long time, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic have made efforts to realize the

independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. The proposal of founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo, which was expounded by President Kim Il-song in 1980, has elucidated a correct direction and method of realizing the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Over the past several years, the Government of the Republic has put forward on many occasions a series of proposals such as an important plan and policy for dialogue and reunification of the North and South. Through constant efforts over a long period by the Government of the Republic, it has finally broken the phase of grave confrontation between the North and South and opened a good phase of realizing many-sided exchanges and cooperation between both sides.

The broadcast pointed out the progress of the North-South high-level talks, of a unified soccer team, and of a unified music concert which was held last year by the sincere efforts of the Government of the Republic.

It continued: Accomplishing the cause of national reunification is a complex and difficult mission. At a time when the situation on the Korean peninsula is being gradually reduced, South Korea and the United States have aggravated the situation once again by conducting the Team Spirit joint military exercise at the outset of this year. It has prevented us from holding the fourth North-South high-level talks to be held in Pyongyang.

The broadcast revealed that the South side would not accept the just assertion of adopting the nonaggression declaration expounded by the Government of the Republic. It also revealed that, as regards the issue of admission into the United Nations, the South side does not agree upon Korea's entry into the United Nations under a single seat and that the Government of the Republic, although there is still a difference of opinion between the North and South over reunification, has allowed the South Korean parliamentarians through Panmunjom to participate in the 85th meeting of the International Parliamentary Union in Pyongyang, proceeding from national harmony, unity, and reunification. However, the path may be long. Nonetheless, we confirm that the reunification of Korea will be realized sooner or later. By the efforts of the Korean people themselves, Korea in the long run will finish the phase of division and the Korean people will achieve the grand harmony of a single nation.

'Challenge' to Will for Reunification Viewed

SK2604053691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0502 GMT 26 Apr 91

["Downright Challenge to People's Will for Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—If the No Tae-u group forces its "unilateral entry into the United Nations," ignoring the opposition of the whole nation, it will face a stern judgement by history and nation, stigmatized as traitors like the "five traitors of 1905" (who sold off the country to the Japanese imperialists), warns NODONG SINMUN today.

The news analyst says:

No Tae-u told "chiefs of embassies and legations abroad" on April 22 that South Korea's "admission to the United Nations is a thing natural in view of the U.N. principle of universality" and the "immediate diplomatic task for this year is to obtain U.N. membership." On the same day the puppet Prime Minister No Chae-pong cried for "entry into the United nations" in the "plenary session of the National Assembly."

The South Korean rulers are mumbling about the "U.N. principle of universality." Of course, it is natural for a unified and independent country to join the United Nations, a universal international organisation for world peace and security. However, in a divided country, our country a half of which is under the occupation of foreign aggression forces, the entry into the United Nations is a very crucial matter concerning the prospect of national reunification, a vital demand of our nation. It must be achieved through national agreement. The attempt of the No Tae-u group to obtain "unilateral U.N. membership" at whatever cost with the support of the United States and other big powers is an open declaration that it would abandon negotiation with us on the "U.N. membership" question and follow the road of "two Koreas". This is an unpardonable perfidy to its dialogue partner and an anti-reunification criminal act challenging the purpose and desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification.

The South Korean rulers claim that the "entry into the United Nations" of the North and the South would "be conducive" to the "relaxation of tensions" on the Korean peninsula. Tensions are growing in our country not because the North and the South remain outside the United Nations, but because the U.S. imperialist aggression forces are occupying South Korea and the two halves of Korea are in a state of acute military confrontation.

The campaign of the South Korean rulers to enter the United Nations unilaterally at any cost, turning down our peace proposals to defuse the political and military confrontation between the North and the South and adopt a nonaggression declaration is a declaration of rupture with us, an open declaration of confrontation. It is a foregone conclusion that the political distrust and military confrontation between the North and the South would get tougher for this.

In making haste with their "unilateral entry into the United Nations" the South Korean rulers seek to legitimise the division of the country on the international scene and thus prop up their colonial military fascist "government" in its crisis and create an external environment for the realisation of their foolish dream of "unification by prevailing over communism" and "unification by absorbing the North.

But there is no future to the national splittists.

Preparations for 85th IPU Meeting Described

SK2604113491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1044 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—The 85th inter-parliamentary conference will be held in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from April 29 to May 4.

Preparations of services for the participants in the conference have been completed.

The street of the capital city is garbed in festive attire to welcome them.

Ten conference halls are fully furnished for a success of the conference.

The emblem of the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] and the letters reading "The 85th Interparliamentary Conference" are hung out in conference halls of the People's Palace of Culture where the plenary session and subcommittee meetings will be held.

Restaurants, shops, soft drink stands and counters of craft products and memorial coins issued by the DPRK Central Bank are available for the participants at the conference venue.

The Pyongyang Koryo Hotel, the Youth Hotel and other hotels are fully ready to receive the guests. It is a few minutes' drive from the hotels to the conference hall which is situated in the city center.

The IPU flags and five-colored buntings are fluttering at the Pyongyang Sunan Airport, around the conference halls, on the streets and welcome towers, large posters depicting the Pyongyang inter-parliamentary conference, cross-the-road streamers are seen everywhere in the city, which add to the atmosphere of the conference. The guests, if they want, can make a tour of grand monumental edifices in Pyongyang, historical sites, education institutions and Mts. Myohyang and Kumgang, the world famous scenic spots. And they will have opportunities to see Panmunjom where the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed and the concrete wall built by the United States and the South Korean authorities in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line.

While staying in Korea they will see a mass gymnastic display by 50,000 youths and children in Pyongyang and acquaint themselves with the development of Korean art at various theatres. And they will be invited to field games slated in the recreation ground of Mt. Taesong on May Day, an international holiday, and take a rest.

Central Bank Issues Gold Coins

SK2504113991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1048 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—The central bank of the DPRK recently issued two kinds of memorial gold coins on the threshold of the 85th inter-parliamentary [Interparliamentary Union, IPU] conference scheduled in Pyongyang.

Embossed in the centre of the obverse of the coin is the People's Palace of Culture, the venue of the conference, with the figure "1991" inscribed beneath it. The letters "85th Inter-Parliamentary Conference" are embossed in the upper part of its circumference and "Pyongyang, DPR of Korea" above laurels in the lower in English.

The coin is 27 mm in diametre and two mm in thickness and 15.55 grams in weight (gold purity 99.9 percent).

The coin will be sold to the participants in the conference and home people and foreigners at the People's Palace of Culture, the venue of the conference, Koryo Hotel and shops.

Secretary General of IPU Arrives

SK2304154591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1515 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Pierre Cornillon, secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, arrived here today to attend the 85th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

The guest was met at the airport by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the parliamentary group of the DPRK, and officials concerned.

President of IPU Council Arrives

SK2304153091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1514 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Daouda Sow, president of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, arrived here today to participate in the 85th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

The guest was met at the airport by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the parliamentary group of the DPRK, and officials concerned.

Delegations Arrive for Meeting

SK2604054091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0445 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—Delegations to the 85th inter-parliamentary conference arrived here Thursday by plane.

Among them are the delegation of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] led by Yao Guang, member of the Standing Committee and vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NPC, delegations of

national parliamentary groups of Spain, France, Finland, the Soviet Union, Australia, and the delegation of the Union of African Parliaments (UAP).

Talks With Zimbabwean Delegation

SK2304155391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Talks between the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK and the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present at the talks on the DPRK side were chairman of the SPA Yang Hyong-sop, Deputy U Chong-hak and officials concerned and on the opposite side were the members of the Zimbabwean delegation led by Speaker of Parliament Nolan Chipo Makombe.

The sides informed each other of the situation in their countries and exchanged views on the further strengthening and development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and two parliaments and a series of matters of mutual concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

South Helicopter's Flight Into DMZ Reported

SK2604095491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0900 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] The South Korean puppets committed a military provocation by sending a helicopter into the eastern front of the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ].

At around 1310 today, the South Korean puppets committed a military provocation by secretly sending one helicopter over the [?KKachi-pong] in the DMZ, which is situated opposite Height 1211 in the eastern front.

This kind of hostile act by the South Korean puppets is a reckless violation of the Armistice Agreement, and this is also an intentional provocative maneuver to artificially aggravate the situation in the DMZ.

At a time when both forces are tensely facing each other with the Military Demarcation Line between them, the South Korean puppets must certainly know that an armed conflict can occur from even trivial accidental instances, and they must act with discretion.

Significance of United Table Tennis Team Viewed

SK2504055591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—"One Korea" is participating in the 41st World Table Tennis Championships which opened in Chiba, Japan, on April 24, under the name of "Korea" for the first time in the history of division.

The debut of the unified team demonstrates to the whole world that the North and the South are an indivisible one nation and fellow countrymen of the same blood and the country is one, and the fellow countrymen see in the appearance of the single team the future of a peaceful, reunified Korea, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

Noting that the emergence of the unified team at the competitions will have a good influence on the world's peaceloving people who want peace and reunification of Korea and make a due contribution to the world's table tennis development, the news analyst says:

The successful formation and emergence of the single team symbolic of "one Korea" at the championships is a precious fruition of the patriotic stand of us who have made all sincere efforts in the past three decades to form and send unified teams to major international games. It is a victory of the line of collaboration and reunification our party and the government of our Republic have consistently maintained and a victory of the pro-reunification forces.

With the current world table tennis championships as an occasion, the Koreans in the North, South and overseas now hope that the North and the South will form and send unified teams to major international games in the future and realize collaboration not only in sports but in other fields and lead it to reunification so that the morning of national reunification may break upon them in a short period.

The South Korean authorities, however, are becoming all the more vociferous these days about "unilateral entry of South Korea into the United Nations" and making foolish attempts to put the internal affairs of the nation on the altar of their political tieup with outside forces and freeze division and, furthermore, to gratify their wild ambition for "unification by prevailing over communism." The South Korean military boss went the length [of] unhesitatingly letting out an extremely provocative outburst against the North threatening to surprise and destroy its "atomic reactor facilities."

This is contradictory to the desire and will of our nation to achieve national reunification in the '90s at any cost amidst the fervent atmosphere of reconciliation, unity and reunification which have become all the more prevalent throughout the country with the formation of the first North-South single team in sports as an occasion.

We wish the unified table tennis team will register fine results at the current championships and thereby display the nation's resourcefulness and honour to the whole world, demonstrate the might of national unity and greatly contribute to opening the door of reunification.

U.S. 24 Apr Aerial Exercises in South Reported

SK2604053491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0440 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Navy Command Wednesday sent flying corps to the skies above South Korea to commit supporting operations for ground units of the South Korean Puppet Army, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the supporting operations staged in the sky above Tongduchon and Chunchon areas were formations of A-10 assault planes based in the Pacific and formations of A-37 assault planes of the puppet air force.

In the meantime, the U.S. imperialists sent a KC-130 refuelling plane based in the Pacific to the sky above Tokjok Islet to stage a drill of refuelling in the air to formations of MH-60 and CH-130 relief planes.

On the same day they deployed formations of Pacific-based C-130 transport planes carrying military supplies in the Osan Air Force base.

And the U.S. Pacific Air Force Command staged aerial and ground striking exercises in the skies above South Korea.

Mobilized in the war games staged in the skies above Tokjok Islet, Yechon, Chechon and other areas were formations of F-16 nuclear-capable fighter-bombers based in the Pacific and fighter-bombers and assault planes of the U.S. Seventh Air Force and the puppet air force, more than 140 in all.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists let E-3A AWACs [airborne warning and control system] fly in the skies above South Korea from Kadena Base in Japan to commit an aerial espionage on the area of our side and command flying corps in the aerial military exercises.

A total of 560 military aircrafts were mobilized in the military games on the 24th alone.

U.S. Said To Stretch Tentacles of Aggression

SK2604110391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 26 Apr 91

["U.S. Aggression and Intervention Against Progressive Countries"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists, in a bid to be a dominator and ruler of the world, stretch the tentacles of aggression and intervention everywhere in the world under the plausible mottoes of "peace" and "security", "trust" and "cooperation" and direct the sharp edge of attack especially to the countries advancing along the road of anti-imperialism and independence, resorting to every conceivable means to dominate those countries.

This is the topic of a by-lined article of NODONG SINMUN captioned "U.S. Aggression and Intervention Against Progressive Countries".

The article says that to dominate and control the progressive countries is a main link in the chain of the world strategy of the U.S. imperialists.

They direct the sharp edge of aggression and intervention to the progressive countries because these countries are big hurdles to the realization of their wild dream of world domination and no small number of them are situated in main areas of resources and military vantages of the world, the article says, and goes on:

The main method on which the U.S. imperialists depend in opposing the progressive countries is an outrageous interference in their internal affairs and an open armed intervention.

Today the spearhead of the policy of strength of the U.S. imperialists is directed to the DPRK and other countries which are advancing under the banner of independence against imperialism.

The U.S. imperialists are running about recklessly to check the reunification of Korea, keep hold on South Korea as an anti-communist bulwark and forward base and contain our Republic by strength with it as the springboard.

It is wholly attributable to the aggressive policy of the U.S. imperialists towards Korea that military and political confrontation between the North and the South has not been removed and the situation has been carried to a critical brink of war on the Korean peninsula.

The armed intervention of the U.S. imperialists are committed in the Caribbean region, Central America, the Middle East and other areas.

Another method employed by the U.S. imperialists in pursuing the policy of aggression toward the progressive countries is concealed manoeuvres to stifle the just struggle of the people for sovereignty, independence and socialism.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is the general headquarters of these activities and sabotages and the den where such activities are planned, organized and practised against revolutionary countries.

A glaring example of this is the "war without powder smoke" waged by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to overthrow revolutionary Cuba. The vicious anti-Cuba moves cover all fields, political, economic, cultural and military.

The crooked hands of the U.S. imperialists are stretched without exception to the ceaseless disputes, conflicts, discord and frictions in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Facts clearly show that the U.S. imperialists are the mastermind of aggression and intervention, main obstacle to the struggle of the people for sovereignty, independence, social progress and peace, and the chieftain of world reaction.

Kim Yong-sun Meets Khabarovsky Kray Delegation

SK2404115091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1117 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a talk separately with the delegation of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) led by Gennadiy Zyuganov, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the CPRF, and Sergey Markarov, first secretary of the Khabarovsk Territorial Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

Activities Mark Founding Anniversary of KPA

SK2404053591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces hosted a cocktail party Tuesday on the occasion of the 59th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA].

Invited to the party were military attaches of foreign embassies here.

KPA General Chon Mun-sop, Colonel Gen. Chon Chae-son and other generals and officers were present there.

Speeches were made at the party.

In the meantime, Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC], arranged a film show and a cocktail party.

Present on invitation were the chief of staff and members of the delegation of the Chinese People's Volunteers of the Korean-Chinese side to the MAC, Czechoslovak, Polish, Swiss and Swedish members and others of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

They appreciated the Korean feature film "Sentiment of Soldier".

Then followed a party at which speeches were made.

Choe Kwang Gives Speech

SK2604023691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0757 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Speech by General Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA), at a central report meeting marking the 59th anniversary of the founding of the KPA held at the 8 February Hall of Culture—live]

[Text] Comrades: Today during the formidable period when the whole party and all the people are firmly united to highly uphold the banner of socialism amid the turbulent current of history, and at a time when we are vigorously advancing toward a new victory in the chuche revolutionary cause, our whole party and all the people are significantly commemorating the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA], which is our party's revolutionary armed force.

Fifty-nine years ago on 25 April 1932, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the KPA. This was a historic event that has provided an opportunity to effect an epochal change in the development of our people's revolutionary struggle. Also, this was the magnificent birth of true chuche-type revolutionary armed forces in our country. [applause]

Due to the founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA], with its true revolutionary forces, our people have come to victoriously wage the struggle, at a new high stage, to achieve the independence of the fatherland and the people's liberation. Under the banner of the chuche idea they were provided with a firm military guarantee of completing to the end the cause of cultivating the Korean revolution. [applause]

From the time of the declaration of its founding until the present, our revolutionary forces have fought their way through the flames of the rigorous and arduous struggle and have reliably defended the chuche revolutionary cause militarily. Thus, they have walked the proud road of victory that has been elucidated with glory.

While commemorating the significant founding of the KPA, upon the authorization of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, I, on behalf of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, enthusiastically congratulate our respectable soldiers of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces who are defending the prosperity of the fatherland with an iron will and who loyally embrace the party, leader, the fatherland, and the people. [applause]

At this significant time when we are commemorating the KPA's founding day, I pay lofty respects to the patriotic forefathers of the anti-Japanese revolution and to the martyrs of the People's Army who sacrificed their precious lives for the independence of the fatherland, the people's freedom and happiness, and the party and the revolution. [applause]

Also, they displayed heroic feats during the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the great Fatherland Liberation War, and I enthusiastically congratulate the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, disabled veterans, and discharged soldiers who have even today been consistently and continuously blossoming as the flower of loyalty on the one road of the revolution which is in accordance with the party. [applause]

Moreover, I send warm greetings to all the people who are highly upholding the leadership of the party and the leader; who are vigorously carrying out the struggle to achieve a victory in the socialist cause; and who care for, show affection for, and sincerely help the People's Army as if it were their own flesh and blood. [applause]

Comrades: The KPA is a revolutionary armed force which is endlessly loyal to our party's cause and the socialist cause.

The revolutionary cause of the working class, the socialist cause, is carried out amid the fierce struggle against the class enemies, including the imperialists and the domestic reactionaries. The working masses, including the working class, can victoriously fulfill the tasks of serious social changes and successfully construct socialism only when they have at their disposal powerful revolutionary armed forces that are under the party's leadership.

As shown by historical experiences, people without the self-defense capabilities to defend the country and themselves on their own are unable to defend their sovereignty against the imperialist aggressors and cannot safeguard the revolutionary successes and the successes attained in construction. Ultimately, they would have no way of avoiding failure and frustration in implementing the revolutionary cause.

Realizing the self-defense capabilities in defense is the basic principle that our party has consistently maintained in building the revolutionary armed forces. One of the most important elements guaranteeing the invincibility of our revolution is the fact that powerful revolutionary armed forces have been founded as a result of the complete embodiment of the military concept of self-defense.

Without our revolutionary forces' invincible might and the history of their heroic struggle, it would be impossible to conceive of the fact that our fatherland is now presenting its commanding appearance as a dignified country that no imperialist aggressors dare provoke and that our socialism is now radiating its rays as the most solid socialism that does not waver under any storm.

The whole course in which the cause of the party and the socialist cause has been victoriously advanced in our country is closely related to the course of the glorious struggle in which our revolutionary armed forces endlessly loyal to the party's leadership have followed.

The course followed by our revolutionary forces is a glorious one of having achieved the liberation of the fatherland with bloodshedding and of having firmly defended the cause of the party with force. It was also a proud course of having performed immortal feats that will shine forever in the clean history of the fatherland with boundless loyalty and devotion to the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Dwelling in our valuable revolutionary gains and in all the victories and successes attained by our people in the revolution and construction are the immortal feats performed by our revolutionary Armed Forces. Also, lodging in them are the red blood shed by the members of the anti-Japanese guerrillas and the men and officers of the KPA.

In retrospect, the Korean revolution has come through an unprecedentedly arduous and grave road. However, as it was credibly backed by the mighty chuche-oriented revolutionary armed forces, it has been tirelessly advanced and followed along a road of shining victories, overcoming all manner of ordeals and difficulties.

In fighting the most brutal imperialist aggressors in the frontline of the anti-imperialist struggle in the whole course of their existence, our revolutionary Armed Forces that opened their first fire in the forest atop Mt. Paektu have firmly defended the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause. They have created a history of heroic feats that can be achieved only by a revolutionary army boundlessly loyal to the independent cause of the popular masses and the cause of the party. [applause]

The anti-Japanese revolutionary war that marked the opening chapter of our revolutionary Armed Forces' glorious course of combat was an arduous revolutionary war fought for a long time against the Japanese imperialist aggressors, who were the truculent militarists, feudalist imperialists, and Asia's shockbrigade of international fascism. It was a glorious revolutionary struggle that fully shows the noble appearance and indomitable might of our revolutionary Armed Forces endlessly loyal to the revolutionary cause explored by the leader.

Even in the face of such difficulties as having no support from the rear or from regular armed forces, the KPRA heroically fought for over 15 years for national liberation following only the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's outstanding political and military leadership while supplying everything, including weapons and food, on its own.

In the days of the anti-Japanese war during which the KPRA had to go through a forest of bayonets every step of the way, carving its way through the enemy's ranks, the KPRA members, upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song as the center of unity and the center of leadership, defended the headquarters of the revolution at all times and under all circumstances, politically and ideologically. They even risked their lives and demonstrated unrivaled heroism and willingness to sacrifice in order to implement the leader's revolutionary ideology and military strategic and tactical guidelines.

Even today, after the passage of a long time, the historical relics, such as the slogan-bearing trees showing the struggle waged by the KPRA members, that are being dug out en masse in an expansive area from the northern border to remote areas of the country, vividly testify to the historical facts. These facts are that the loyalty of our revolutionary Armed Forces to their leader and to the revolutionary cause of their people during the days of the arduous anti-Japanese struggle for liberation was displayed at a noble height, and that the cohesion and unity of the revolutionary ranks rallying around their leader was solid and invincible. [applause]

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the KPRA members tenaciously carried out armed struggle against

the Japanese imperialists shoulder to shoulder with the excellent sons and daughters of the Chinese people. They staged a resolute struggle in armed defense of the Soviet Union, the world's first socialist country, thereby satisfactorily fulfilling the national and international duty of the revolution.

The KPRA's heroic feats in the sacred struggle for national liberation and the tradition of infinite loyalty to the leader and the revolutionary cause that was formed in the course of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle are not only the eternal revolutionary assets which symbolize the lofty political and ideological ethos of our revolutionary Armed Forces and their invincible militant might, but were also brilliantly recorded in the revolutionary history of our party as the immortal (?assets). [applause]

In the entire period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the KPRA, under the excellent and tested leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the ever-victorious iron-willed commander and the legendary hero, firmly guaranteed the victorious advance of the Korean revolution, taking the chuche-oriented position. The KPRA wisely organized and conducted numerous operations and battles, finally defeated the Japanese imperialist aggressors, and brilliantly achieved the historic cause of national liberation. [applause] The brilliant victory of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was a great victory won in our people's struggle for achieving the cause of national liberation. It was also a historic event which showed that the revolutionary cause of the independent people possessing the powerful revolutionary Armed Forces which are infinitely loyal to the leader's leadership is ever-victorious and invincible. [applause]

The KPA was inherited from the KPRA and was strengthened and developed into regular armed forces after national liberation. It has outstandingly performed its glorious mission by firmly defending the country's independence and the gains of the revolution, which were attained by shedding blood, and by resolutely safeguarding and defending the party's cause in the entire period of building a new society. There were numerous obstacles ahead on the road of our people's struggle for building a new society, and as the revolution advanced, the manuevers against socialism by the enemies at home and abroad were more viciously perpetrated. However, any grim hardships and trials and any vicious maneuvers of the enemies were unable to block the advance of our party and people, and the People's Army always stood at the head of the ranks defending our party's cause.

The invincible, militant might of our People's Army was fully displayed in the great Fatherland Liberation War. The three-year war triggered by the U.S. imperialists was a showdown on which the fate of our fatherland and people depended. It was also a formidable and fierce modern war to defend our party's cause, our people's cause of independence, from the aggression of the imperialist allied forces headed by the U.S. imperialists, the ringleaders of the reactionary forces of the world. In the grim period which determined the fate of the fatherland, officers and men of our People's Army rose up as one in the fight of justice to defend the fatherland under the excellent leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who vigorously called the entire party, the entire Army, and all the people to join the sacred war of annihilating the enemies. Thus, they displayed mass heroism and peerless devotion.

Upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's strategic plan and policy, officers and men of our People's Army dealt deadly blows and defeats to the enemies with the political and ideological superiority of the revolutionary army and its might of unity firmly rallied around the party and the leader, thereby creating miracles unprecedented in the history of war. The feats performed in battles by thousands and tens of thousands of nameless fighters—who defended to the end every hill and even an inch of land in blood, becoming human bombs, bestowing death upon the enemines, thus sacrificing their young lives without hesitation—were a brilliant manifestation of the burning patriotism and lofty loyalty of officers and men of our People's Army to defend the party's cause, the people's cause, with their lives. [applause]

All the people throughout the country, who were standing on the same combat ranks with fighters of the People's Army, bravely waged the work of wartime production and the work of assisting the frontline in the face of the enemies' barbarous bombing and shelling. Thus, the reliably guaranteed victory in the frontline. With their brilliant achievement in the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, our people and the People's Army honorably defended the country's independence and the gains of the revolution. The victory of the Fatherland Liberation War also vigorously demonstrated that our people and the revolutionary Army which have been firmly united as one organism around the mighty revolutionary party, while being blessed with the great leader, are ever-victorious in confrontation with any powerful enemies. [applause]

Even in the postwar period the People's Army smashed the enemies' constant maneuvers for aggression and war at every stage, reliably defended the security of the fatherland and the people, and, thus, firmly guaranteed the victorious advance of the revolution and construction with force of arms. In the arduous period when the manuevers of the enemies at home and abroad became unscrupulous, under the slogan, "Let us defend with our life the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Il-song," the People's Army firmly defended the singlehearted unity of our party and the revolutionary ranks, sternly smashed the enemies' reckless military provocations, and, thus, firmly defended the party's cause. Thus, the People's Army honorably performed the noble mission as the army of the leader, the army of the party. [applause]

The noble traits and brilliant achievements of our People's Army, which has been infinitely loyal to the party's cause, have been highly displayed also in the struggle to realize our party's socialist construction plan aimed at achieving the prosperity of the fatherland and the happiness of the people.

The soldiers of our People's Army accept the party's intention as a vital demand and a supreme command, under the slogan, "What the party decides, we will do." In addition, in hearty response to the party's call, even when it was the most difficult to carry out socialist construction, they decisively turned out at all posts and devotedly waged a struggle. By so doing, they built a large number of everlasting structures that guarantee the prosperity and development of the country and the happiness of the people.

The great monumental structures of the WPK era, which the KPA soldiers built while upholding the party's plan for great construction, clearly show the noble traits of the genuine revolutionary army, the army of the people, which has not only defended the fatherland with blood, but also created the happiness of the people with sweat of the brow. Thus, never will our fatherland and people forget the noble achievements which the soldiers of the People's Army accomplished in the struggle to achieve the growth of the country and the prosperity of the nation. [applause]

Indeed, the proud course of struggle, followed by our revolutionary Armed Forces, has been the glorious course infinitely loyal to our party's sacred cause of defending and realizing the independence of the nation. This course is the history of the heroic exploits that the People's Army has brilliantly achieved in the revolutionary army's noble mission of defending the party and the revolution and of fulfilling the party's intention. [applause]

Comrades, the KPA is the ever-victorious and invincible revolutionary armed force that firmly guarantees the security of our fatherland and the victory of our revolution.

Our revolutionary forces have been trained and refined in the course of the long-drawn-out guerrilla struggle, the arduous modern war, and the realization of fierce class struggle. In addition, our revolutionary forces have grown and been strengthened into indestructible militant ranks that are firmly armed politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically.

Turning the revolutionary armed forces of the working class into the genuine party's army and the leader's army, which is infinitely loyal to the party and the leader, is a basic issue related to the fate of the revolutionary army. This is a decisive guarantee in resolutely and militarily defending to the end the revolutionary cause effected by the leader.

Today, under the tested leadership of our party, our People's Army has been strengthened as a powerful revolutionary force that firmly and militarily guarantees the completion of the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause. Accordingly, our People's Army highly deserves its dignity.

Our party, which has brilliantly embodied the idea of building up the chuche-oriented army, on the basis of the historical success in building up revolutionary armed forces, made the policy of modelling the entire army on the chuche idea, and energetically led the struggle to realize the policy. By so doing, our party has developed the cause of building up the army onto a new high level.

The policy of modelling the entire army on the chuche idea is aimed at firmly preparing all soldiers of the People's Army to be the chuche-type communist revolutionaries who are infinitely loyal to the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people. The policy is aimed at strengthening and developing the People's Army into the leader's and the party's army by pressing ahead with the founding of the army and the military activities as required by the chuche idea. For this reason, this policy is the most revolutionary policy.

The policy of modelling the entire army on the chuche idea has been vigorously accelerated, and the party's original ideology of building up the army and its chuche-oriented policy of founding the army has been carried out. The People's Army has resolutely adhered to the tradition of loyalty to the leader, the tradition that has been formed and consolidated since our revolution began. The People's Army has completely armed itself with the characteristics and traits of brilliantly inheriting and developing the tradition generation after generation. Thus, the People' Army has been strengthened and developed into invincible military ranks. [applause]

All soldiers of the People's Army have firmly armed themselves with our party's revolutionary idea, that is, the chuche idea, and have treasured as a firm faith the slogan, "Let us devote our lives to fighting for the great leader." In addition, the political and ideological unity of the entire army on the basis of loyalty to the party and the leader has been as firm as a rock.

The exploits of so many heroic fighters, including hero Kim Kwang-chol, who devoted their lives to rescuing the valuable revolutionary comrades, have constantly impressed our people. The exploits clearly show the loyalty of the soldiers of the People's Army to the party and the leader.

Today, the revolutionary outlook on the leader has been firmly established within the ranks of the People's Army. In addition, the revolutionary camaraderie, self-awakening military discipline, and noble ethos of the closeness of upper and lower echelons are overflowing within the ranks of the People's Army.

Our People's Army, which has been firmly united as one ideological and mental unified body around the party and the leader with the entire people, has unbreakable blood ties with the broad segments of the popular

masses. In addition, because our People's Army has devotedly served the fatherland and the people, it has enjoyed support and encouragement from all the people throughout the country.

This is the political and moral superiority which only the genuine army of the people, the revolutionary army, can have. This is precisely the source of invincible might, with which our People's Army can win a victory in the fight against any aggression army.

By thoroughly embodying the party's military lines, our KPA has been firmly prepared not only politically and ideologically, but also technologically, becoming better strengthened and developed as an invincible revolutionary armed forces equipped with sagacious strategy and tactics.

After presenting a policy of our own style of modernization in military construction in accordance with the demand of the developing reality, our party has energetically led the struggle for its realization, thereby effecting a great reform in strengthening the KPA's fighting power and in the military service.

Under the party's leadership, the policy of converting the entire army into a cadre army and of modernizing the entire army has been carried out. As a result, the KPA is equipped with modern weapons, combat technology, and equipment. All the people have come to acquire a high level of military knowledge, technology, and chuche-oriented strategy, and have grown up physically well-developed, each one being a match for 100 fighters and a crack shot.

With the KPA soldiers endlessly loyal to the party and leader and armed with advanced military science and modern military technology credibly defending the defense lines of the fatherland, our fatherland and socialist gains are firmly protected and our people are guaranteed with high revolutionary dignity and a rewarding socialist life. [applause]

It is a great honor and pride for our party and people to have at their disposal the invincible and ever-victorious KPA that defends and safeguards its leader, the party, its system, and the fatherland at the cost of its own life while being endlessly loyal to the party's cause. [applause]

In addition to strengthening the KPA, our party has vigorously carried out a struggle to have all the people armed and the whole country converted into a fortress, thereby building an all-people defense system with the KPA at its heart.

We have built a powerful revolutionary army capable of guaranteeing the chuche revolutionary cause with force and self-reliant defense capabilities under the wise leadership of our party. This is one of the most brilliant successes attained in carrying out our revolutionary cause and the great gains that are invaluable and significant in achieving national prosperity and a happy future for our people. [applause]

All the proud feats and exploits adorning the glorious history of our revolutionary armed forces represent a triumph of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's self-defense military thoughts and a noble fruition of our party's outstanding and tested leadership. [applause]

Taking advantage of this meaningful occasion of marking the 59th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, I offer, in reflecting upon the boundless admiration and fiery loyalty of all the people and the men and officers of the KPA, the highest honor and warmest gratitude to Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party, who had earlier founded a genuinely revolutionary armed force of the working class, who rescued the national fate by defeating U.S. and Japanese imperialism, who defended the independence of the fatherland, and who has converted our country into a socialist country of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense by sagaciously leading the party, the people, and the army. [applause]

Comrades: Today, when the acute confrontation and struggle between socialism and imperialism, the progressives and reactionaries, continues and the imperialists' antisocialist maneuvers are becoming more malicious each day, our people have the heavy duty of boldly crushing all the obstacles to our march and enemy's challenges and of more resolutely struggling to win a new victory in the revolution.

Because of the U.S. imperialists' and the fascist South Korean military clique's aggression and provocative maneuvers, our people are now engaged in a struggle to realize national reunification and the socialist cause amid a tense situation in which war has become a practical danger.

Bringing an end to national division and achieving the independent, peaceful reunification of the fatherland is the entire Korean people's most urgent national task. Our country's reunification issue is an important one, as it is related to the fate of the Korean people.

The situation on the Korean peninsula today when the danger of perpetual division of the country and new war is growing higher with the passage of time urgently demands that the state of confrontation between the North and South be removed and that a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification be opened.

Peace is the most urgent matter that the North and South must resolve before anything else, for the sake of national reunification and the well-being of the country.

Our party and the Government of the Republic have attached preferential significance to the peace question of the country and made all sincere efforts for its solution. Proceeding from the earnest desire to guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula and to open the road for its peaceful reunification of our party and the Government of the Republic not only put forward already in 1988 a comprehensive peace proposal which envisages the adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the

North and the South, the conclusion of a peace agreement between Korea and the United States, the sharp reduction of the armed forces of the North and the South, and the phased withdrawal of U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, but also put forward a proposal, last year, to provide North-South high-level talks and to practically eliminate the state of military confrontation, including the question of nonaggression.

In the beginning of this year, too, we elucidated a new epochal proposal for peace and peaceful reunification and urged again the persons in authority of South Korea to respond to the adoption of a nonaggression declaration and to suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique not only have turned a deaf ear to the peace proposal and reunification proposal of ours and have shown no affirmative response to our sincere efforts, but rather are advancing toward the road of building up arms on a large scale.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique have staged the nuclear war exercise again turning a deaf ear to our proposal with regard to agreeing and adopting a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South and to completely suspending the aggressive Team Spirit military exercise or suspending it for at least two to three years. Thus, they have artificially blocked smooth progress in the hard-won North-South high-level talk and led the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war. This is an open provocation to us, who are making every sincere effort to brighten the nineties as the era of the fatherland's reunifation at all coasts, and a betrayal to the dialogue partner.

As has already been revealed to the world, the Team Spirit military exercise, which the U.S. imperialists have escalated every year in South Korea ever since 1976 by mobilizing a large number of armed forces of aggression, is thoroughly aggressive in its content and character. The exercise, the attacking target of which is the northern half of our Republic, is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war designed to launch a preemptive attack against us. What is graver is the fact that recently the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets not only have repeatedly perpetrated vicious military provocations and hostile acts, including the artillery firing at our side's area of the Military Demarcation Line, as well as espionage acts against our Republic, but have also gone so far as to utter the harsh remarks that they would attack and destroy the atomic reactor facilities in the North, thereby extremely inspiring an atmosphere of war.

The harsh remarks that the military person in authority of South Korea raved at a time when all the brethren aspire for peace and are launching into a nationwide struggle to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country in the nineties at any cost, are an open declaration of renouncing dialogue, a declaration of refusing peace and reunification, and a virtual declaration of war against us. Through the bellicose, harsh remarks this time the South Korean puppet clique has laid bare to the world its dirty colors as the antinational criminal group which is not interested in the nation and the future of the next generations but interested only in reunification through a victory over communism and by force of arms [muryokeuihan sunggong tongil].

The South Korean authorities' plan to launch a surprise attack against us is precisely the plan of the United States and is according to its scenario. Miscalculating that their policy of force would get it across in Korea, too, the U.S. imperialists who have been afflicted with megalomania with the war in the Gulf as an occasion, are attempting to trigger an allout war of aggression against our Republic, making an issue of the nonexistent nuclear facilities. Also, not long ago, the U.S. imperialists babbled that if a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula a fierce fighting for more than 120 days at least would be inevitable, that the United States would mobilize more than 200,000 supporting troops in the war, and the like. Thus, they openly revealed their real intention of trying to make it an established fact to provoke a new war in Korea.

The inherent aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists and their policy of force have never changed at all but have become unscrupulous, and the flunkeyist, treacherous, and antinational acts of the No Tae-u ring, which is maintaining the remainder of its doomed life as the war perpetrator [chonjaeng hasuin] of the U.S. imperialists, have become more vicious. The criminal plot of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ring to provoke a war should be immediately suspended, and the bellicose elements in South Korea who are indiscreetly running wild under the protection of the U.S. imperialists should be immediately eliminated.

Our people who treasure national dignity and sovereignty and who love peace will never allow the land of Korea to be devastated due to the nuclear war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and, will never allow all of our brethren to suffer the miserable calamities of nuclear war. All facts clearly show who wants peace and reunification, and who seeks war and division.

Today, in order to remove the danger of a nuclear war, maintain peace there, and realize national peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. forces and their nuclear weapons should be withdrawn from South Korea. And, the Korean peninsula should be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The United States should look straight at our Republic Government's sincere efforts for peace and at the Korean people's unanimous desire for national reunification. And, it should give up the dangerous war policy, which resorts to strength, and should withdraw its forces and nuclear weapons from South Korean as soon as possible.

If the South Korean authorities have any real concern about peace and reunification of the country, they should

unhesitatingly come out to our just proposal for removing the situation of military confrontation. In addition, they should accept our aboveboard proposal that reunification be realized by means of a confederation.

If the military confrontation between the North and South is removed, and if the U.S. forces and their nuclear weapons are withdrawn from South Korea, durable peace will be guaranteed in our country. Thus, a phase decisively favorable for peacefully realizing the reunification of the country will be opened.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, miscalculating that our peace-loving efforts are signs of our weakness, finally embark on the road toward a war of aggression, our revolutionary Armed Forces and the entire Korean people will rise up as one to fight to defend the noble socialist fatherland and the valuable revolutionary gains and will impose a thousandfold retaliation against the aggressors. [applause]

All compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas, who love the country and the nation, should smash the splittist moves of every type and unanimously turn out to the sacred struggle for national reunification. In addition, our people will without fail achieve the historic cause of national reunification through the united strength of the entire nation. [applause]

Today, the broad segments of the world's peace-loving people express firm solidarity to our people's struggle to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, maintain peace there, and realize national independent and peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiations.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend deep gratitude to the governments, political parties, groups, international bodies, and peace-loving people of various countries, which have positively supported and encouraged our people's struggle to frustrate the moves for a new war by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling quarters; to withdraw the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea; and to achieve peace and peaceful reunification of Korea. I express the conviction that they will invariably extend firm solidarity to our people's just cause. [applause]

Our party and the Government of the Republic will, under the idea of independence, peace, and friendship, constantly strengthen unity and militant solidarity with the international revolutionary forces. [applause]

Today, the situation at home and abroad and the heavy and honorable tasks assigned to us demand that our revolutionary forces be further strengthened politically, economically, and militarily.

The might of our revolutionary forces lies in the indestructible unity and solidarity of the leader, the party, and the masses. We should further consolidate the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks, in which the entire people and Army are firmly rallied around the party and the leader as a rock. In addition, we should highly display its might in all fields, including the revolution and construction.

We should vigorously carry out the three revolutions—ideologically, technologically, and culturally—while upholding the banner of the chuche idea, and should constantly effect an upsurge in socialist construction. By so doing, we should more highly display the socialism of our own style.

Constantly accelerating the socialist economic construction is a major task arising in strengthening the might of the country and in effecting a victory in the socialist cause. We should firmly give priority to the major parts of the national economy and normalize production at a high level by effectively using the already-established economic foundation. And, we should positively wage a struggle to further improve the material and cultural life of the people in keeping with the demand of socialism.

In order to reliably protect our party and the revolution from aggressions and obstructions by the imperialists and the class enemies of various types, and in order to firmly defend with the armed forces the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause, we should further strengthen the People's Army.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: The People's Army is the revolutionary armed forces of our party, and its mission lies in defending with the armed forces the party's revolutionary cause.

We should further strengthen the People's Army politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically, and should thoroughly establish chuche in building up the Army and in all fields of military activities. We should firmly guarantee the party's leadership, thereby accelerating the policy of modelling the entire Army on the chuche idea.

The loyalty to the party and the leader is a decisive condition for the People's Army—the revolutionary armed forces of our party—to maintain its own original duty and to discharge its own mission.

We should strengthen the indoctrination in loyalty within the People's Army. Thereby, we should see to it that all soldiers arm themselves with the strongest faith and will to uphold the great leader and the great party. In addition, we should see to it that they are infinitely loyal to the tested leadership of our party, which has led the chuche-oriented revolutionary cause to victory.

By inheriting, from generation to generation, the tradition of the loyalty to the leader [yongdoja] that our revolutionary Armed Forces have displayed highly from the days of the anti-Japanese struggle, men and officers of the KPA and the People's Security Forces should always cherish the invariable, single-minded loyalty to their leader and party under any adverse circumstances, resolutely defend the center of our revolutionary unity,

the center of leadership, and cement rock-firm the single-minded unity of the leader, the party, and the popular masses. [applause]

Strengthening the indoctrination on the chuche idea among the soldiers is an important task of imbuing the entire army with the chuche idea. Also, it is the primary condition for making all the soldiers chuche-oriented communist revolutionaries endlessly loyal to the party and leader.

Men and officers of the KPA and the People's Security Forces should deeply understand the fundamentals of the chuche idea, the chuche-oriented revolutionary theories, strategy, and tactics, and well-versed in our party's self-defense revolutionary ideology, the chuche-oriented military lines, and the party's policy on military areas.

It is one of the KPA's major duties to resolutely defend and brilliantly inherit and develop the party's revolutionary traditions. Just as the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters did, all the soldiers should make themselves thoroughly revolutionized based on a revolutionary resolve to offer their blood to the last drop for the party and leader, for the fatherland and people, fulfilling their duty as the revolutionary fighter endlessly loyal to the party and leader by bravely rising up in a decisive battle of crushing the enemy in an emergency, thereby displaying a high degree of revolution-mindedness and heroism. [applause]

The party's leadership over the KPA is the life of the KPA itself and a decisive factor to all forms of victory. The mission of the KPA which resolutely defends and consummates the chuche revolutionary cause from generation to generation can be fulfilled only under the leadership of the party.

The KPA should thoroughly embody the party's leadership in all areas of its activity, defend the cause of the party, and struggle with devotion to realize the party's long-range intentions.

The KPA should, as in the past, establish a revolutionary trait of defending its leader, its party, its system, and its fatherland at the risk of its life, as the army of the leader and party, and of thoroughly fulfilling all the tasks assigned to them by the party.

It is imperative to raise the degree of combat and political training of the KPA soldiers so as to make them well-versed in modern weapons, combat technology, and equipment, learn the chuche-oriented strategy, and acquire rich combat experiences, and bring the unit's combat readiness to perfection in a way that corresponds to the demands of modern warfare.

After reading the letter of oath he received last February from the men and officers of the No. 525 KPA Unit, Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a meaningful letter in his own handwriting headlined "Glory to the Revolutionary Armed Forces Loyal to Our Party," thus providing all the men and officers of the KPA with endless encouragement. [applause]

The historic letter written in his own handwriting is the highest assessment of the glorious, militant course that our revolutionary armed forces have traversed and the immortal, heroic feats performed by our revolutionary armed forces. Reflected in this is his great trust that he would continually give prominence to the revolutionary armed forces that have explored and glorified the country and people under the leader as the core force behind our revolution, as well as his hope that the revolutionary armed forces would keep consummating the chuche revolutionary cause together with the party. [applause]

Men and officers of the KPA and the People's Security Forces should engrave deep in their hearts the letter that the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has sent to the men and officers of the No. 525 KPA Unit and put into practice the resolves they had pledged to the party Central Committee without fail, thereby glorifying indefinitely the honor of the revolutionary armed forces boundlessly loyal to our party. [applause]

Cementing the blood ties with the people and enjoying the absolute support from them is the source of the revolutionary army's invincible might. The KPA soldiers should give full play to the traditional custom of always defending the people's lives and property under any circumstances and of sharing weal and woe with them. The people should, in turn, establish the traditional custom of loving and sincerely supporting and assisting the KPA as if they were their own blood relatives

The whole nation should actively help the KPA satisfactorily fulfill its mission and duty as the army of the party, by establishing a social spirit of valuing the army.

Men and officers of the KPA should manifest their bravery of being one-matches-100 in the defense of the fatherland under the party's slogan calling for a heroic life and struggle and, at the same time, performing unending labor feats at every major construction site, thereby brilliantly fulfilling its honorable mission as the defender of the fatherland and the creators of the people's happiness.

Men and officers of the KPA and the People's Security Forces, members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia, and the Red Youth Guards should closely watch the movements of the enemy, with a constant high degree of vigilance, and discard any easygoing attitudes, no matter how slight it may be, while remaining on a full alert for combat mobilization so as to cope with any unexpected situation that may develop.

The revolutionary cause of our party is just and a still brighter vista is unfurling before our people.

Our people and the KPA struggling for a just cause under the wise leadership of the party and leader are invincible and ever-victorious at all times. [applause]

Let us all vigorously struggle for the complete victory of socialism, for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, and for the consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause, uniting firmly around the party Central Committee led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song! [applause]

Long live Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people! [applause and shouts]

Long live the glorious WPK, the organizer and guide of all the victories of the Korean people! [applause and shouts]

Foreign Military Attaches Visit

SK2504051091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0438 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Military attaches of foreign embassies here visited the Ministry of People's Armed Forces Wednesday in congratulation of the 59th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA].

They were met by minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u, KPA General Kim Kwang-chin and other generals and officers.

Well known is the history of the Korean People's Army that inherited the excellent traditions of the anti-Japanese guerrilla army organized and led by respected Comrade Kim Il-song, the doyen of the military attaches corps said on the occasion, and warmly congratulated the officers and men of the heroic Korean People's Army which has covered the road of victory and glory full of pride.

O Chin-u expressed thanks for it and had a friendly conversation with the guests.

O Chin-u, Others Lay Wreaths

SK2504153791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1514 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Party and government cadres, soldiers of the People's Army and working people today laid wreaths before the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery on Mt. Taesong on the 59th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army (KPA), the revolutionary armed forces of our party.

Wreaths sent by the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were lying on the wreath-laying stand.

Present at the wreath-laying ceremony were O Chin-u, Yon Hyong-muk, Yi Chong-ok, Choe Kwang and other party and government cadres.

Wreaths were laid in the name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, commissions and ministries of the Administration Council, public organizations, the joint organization of the Korean Children's Union, KPA units, central organs, scientific, education, cultural and art, public health and press organs, party and power bodies, administration and economic organs, factories and cooperative farms in Pyongyang.

Party and government cadres, People's Army soldiers and working people laid wreaths before the monument to the fallen fighters of the People's Army.

Congratulatory group and delegations of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan visiting the socialist homeland placed wreaths before the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery on Mt. Taesong, and the military attaches corps in Pyongyang laid wreaths before the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery on Mt. Taesong and the Monument to the Fallen Fighters of the People's Army.

Members of the Korean-Chinese side to the Military Armistice Commission and members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission laid wreaths before the Cemetery of Fallen Fighters of the Korean People's Army in Kaesong.

Choe Tae-pok at Conference on Kim Il-song Work

SK2504113891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1051 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—A symposium marking the 30th anniversary of the publication of the great leader President Kim Il-song's work "On the Duty of Educational Workers in the Raising of Children and Young People," was held at the Grand People's Study House on April 25.

Present at the symposium were Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council, and others.

The speakers said that "On the Duty of Educational Workers in the Raising of Children and Young People," a historic speech of President Kim Il-song at the national conference of active educational workers on April 25, 1961, is a highly important guideline which should be held fast to in raising and upbringing school children and youth to be comprehensively developed communist revolutionaries of chuche-type boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader.

They said that the work gives a comprehensively scientific exposition of the theoretical and practical questions

arising in raising communistic men including the importance of the communistic raising of children and youth in socialist society and the main content of communist education.

Noting that the success in the educational work over the past 30 years clearly proves the validity and vitality of the idea and theory propounded in the work, they said that today our education is developing at a new high stage under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

All the educational workers should deeply grasp the party's policy of education and carry it through so as to bring about a great turn in the education of posterity, the speakers stressed.

Three Revolutions Exhibition Grounds Constructed

SK2504151991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1509 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Structural construction of the Three Revolution Exhibition in the area of Yonmot-tong in Pyongyang has been completed in the main.

It will have six big buildings on exhibition grounds of 1,100,000 square metres including the Light Industry Hall with a total floor space of 15,000 square metres. Its building lot is 83,000 square metres.

The buildings of the exhibition are symmetrically situated, three on either side with a Tower of the Three Revolutions as the centre.

A 100 metre wide main road will be built on the exhibition grounds and a parking place of 60,000 square metres at the end of the road.

A big artificial lake and cultural recreation grounds will be built.

The Three Revolution Exhibition will comprehensively show the achievement made by the Korean people in the revolution and construction through the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

Nonferrous Metal Ore Production Viewed

SK2304152591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1508 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Korea has taken energetic measures to boost nonferrous metal ore production.

With the increase of the investment in this field and the invigoration of prospecting in recent years, many promising mines have been developed and the output of nonferrous metal ores has jumped sharply.

Entering this year, the Taepong mine consisting of a dressing plant with the capacity of treating hundreds of thousands of tons of nonferrous metal ores, several excavation pits and carriage pits has been developed and commissioned.

The Pongnyon mine, the Changrim mine and the Changsaeng pit of the Piryugang mine rich in deposits and convenient in mining have been developed.

Developers of the Changrim mine discovered a new shape of ore vein, completed its dressing method and built a dressing plant with a processing capacity of hundreds of thousands of tons to create a promising nonferrous metal ore production base in two years or more.

Shaft Pit No. 3 of the Chonma mine has been dug and a new dressing plant with a capacity double the existing one was built in the Tacgak mine. The newly developed mines are modernly equipped for massive excavation, carriage and treatment.

The Hamhung Joint Venture Chemical Factory, a new rare metal base, was commissioned recently.

In the meantime an energetic work was undertaken to increase the smelting capacity.

Smeltery No. 727 with the plottage of more than 100,000 square metres went into operation in South Hamgyong Province. The smeltery, which was moved and expanded, is modernly mechanized and automated.

And the Chonghwa smelting shop of the Tongchang mine was commissioned to treat headings by itself.

Last year, the Hyangpung mine and the Sinpa Youth Mine were commissioned and the number of the cutting faces of the leading Komdok Mining Complex increased 1.8 times as against the previous year and a shaft of the Sangnong mine was built, the capacity of the nonferrous metal ore production rising markedly.

Korea will produce 1.7 million tons of nonferrous metal a year at the end of the present Third Seven-Year Plan.

Railroad Freight Transportation Increase Noted

SK2404154891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1458 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Freight turnover has increased at the Kaechon General Bureau of Railways. Its daily transport has jumped these days 5,000 tons above the same period of last month, [punctuation as received] it has set itself the goal of beating ahead of schedule the yearly transport target 12.4 percent higher than last year's.

Holding a big share in the railway transport of the country, the General Bureau controls more than 200 stations including several centralized goods stations, locomotive corps and service corps of passenger and freight trains in the area north of the central west of Korea.

Railways are densely ramified over the area where there are such big cities as Sinuiju, Kanggye and Pyongsong and a host of large-scale industrial establishments, coal and ore mines.

The General Bureau has put big efforts into the laying of new rails and railway electrification to meet the growing demand for transport.

The northern railway (Manpo-Hyesan) has been laid and more than 500 km railway sections including Koin-Manpo, Chongju-Chongsu, Songdo-Toksong lines, and the loop line of Chongnam District and Kaechon-Choyang line have been electrified since 1980.

The level of material and technological equipment is high.

The service corps of passenger and freight trains in Sinuiju, Kaechon, Sinanju and several other railway stations repair locomotives, passenger coaches and wagons by themselves.

Railway freight turnover is on the yearly growth. It went up 28.6 percent in 1990 above 1988.

KCNA Review of 26 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK2604060191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0446 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 26 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe. Also seen in the press is a report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the delegation.

Printed in the press is a message of greetings Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent to Ali Hassan Mwinyi, chairman of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania and president of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the founding of the United Republic of Tanzania.

President Kim Il-song received messages from the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the governor-general of Mauritius in reply to his messages of greetings, says the press.

The press gives an account of a symposium held in Pyongyang to mark the 30th anniversary of the publication of "On the Duty of Educational Workers in the Raising of Children and Young People", an immortal classical work of President Kim Il-song.

According to the press, a seminar was held in Zimbabwe and celebrations took place in various countries on the occasion of the 15th of April.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article saying that President Kim Il-song founded the revolutionary armed forces of chuche type and has wisely led the work to strengthen and develop them onto a new higher stage.

An article of MINJU CHOSON says that Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely led the heoric Korean People's Army [KPA] to strengthen and develop into the revolutionary armed forces which have carried forward the revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese struggle.

South Korean people highly praised President Kim Il-song as a hero of the nation and an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, says NODONG SINMUN.

Appearing in the press is a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the 13th congress of the Party of Green of Germany.

Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, will pay an official goodwill visit to the DPRK early in May, says the press.

It is reported in the press that people's delegations visited the units of the three services of the Korean People's Army and colorful functions were held on the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the foundation of the heroic KPA.

Econews of NODONG SINMUN includes a report about innovations in the production of cement and electric power.

Spotlighted in the daily is news that unified Korea men's and women's teams defeated Belgium, the United States, Japan and the Netherlands in the second day of the round robin preliminaries of the 41st World Table Tennis Championships.

The central bank of the DPRK minted memorial coins on the threshold of the 85th inter-parliamentary conference and delegations to the conference arrived in Pyongyang, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN gives an account of the sojourn in Pyongyang of Kim Hwi-[illegible], former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon Provincial District Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central pemanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party" on a visit to the northern half of the country.

An agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the governments of the DPRK and the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic was signed in Minsk, says the press.

According to the press, Hyon Chun-kuk, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union, issued a statement to the press in denunciation of the utterances of the South Korean military boss threatening to surprise and destroy "atomic reactor facilities" of the North.

Carried in the press is a letter sent by Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon), over radio to Mun Ik-hwan, chairman of the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon as regards the issue of its formation.

In a commentary, NODONG SINMUN denounces the South Korean authorities for doggedly resorting to the plots for "two Koreas" and for permanent division through the "separate entry into the United Nations".

MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary denouncing the outbursts of the South Korean authorities that they would keep such anti-communist fascist laws as the "National Security Law" and the "laws of the security planning board".

South Korean news of the press includes a report that students attacked the Cheon Puk-Daewoo Motor Sales Co. Ltd.

NODONG SINMUN says that military exercises against the North are continued by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

It is reported in the daily that the Namibian president referred to the major tasks of the parliament, the Chinese GUANGMING DAILY carried an article entitled "Shining Example Against Opportunism" on the 121st birth anniversary of Lenin and the Council of the Secretaries of the Vilnius Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union made public an appeal calling upon Gorbachev to take measures to restore the sovereignty of the Soviet Union.

The press observes the 27th anniversary of the proclamation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON run articles exposing the aggressive and interventionist moves of the United States in progressive countries and saying that the U.S. reactionary ruling quarters directed the spearhead of its war strategy to the Korean peninsula after the Gulf war, proclaiming it as a "zone of most serious danger" and have stepped up war preparations.

South Korea

Sports Minister To Push Ahead Visit to North

SK2604073491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0513 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on will push ahead a visit to North Korea late next month to discuss sports exchanges and sending a joint Korean team to the Barcelona Olympics, a government source said Friday.

Pak was originally to visit Pyongyang on May 6 with a sports delegation to talk about the formation of a single Korean team for the world soccer youth championships in Portugal in June.

An architect of President No Tae-u's northern policy, Pak will tour Mongolia and China after visiting Pyongyang to sign sports exchange agreements with their governments or national olympic committees, the source said on condition of anonymity.

At the ongoing world table tennis championships in Chiba, Japan , Pak discussed his visit to China with Wu Shaozu, a member of the State Physical Culture and Sports Committee of China. He already had invitations from China and Mongolia, the source said.

Pak has apparently been unable to meet with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Yu-sun, in Chiba because Kim did not attend the championships, but Pak told Kim Hyong-chin, head of joint Korean table tennis team and vice chairman of North Korea's Olympic Committee, of his plans to visit late in May.

If Pak does go to Pyongyang, he and Kim Yu-sun will discuss inter-Korean sports exchanges after the world championships in Japan, forming a single Korean team for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, exchanges of youth and sports associations and conclusion of an inter-Korean sports exchange agreement, according to the source.

North To Attend Cultural Event on Sakhalin

SK2604083991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0818 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—Beauticians, representatives of cosmetics companies, salesgirls and fashion designers from both South and North Korea will take part in the "Inter-Korean Beauty Culture Fete" on the Soviet far eastern island of Sakhalin on July 13-14.

Shin Song-hyon, president of the South Korea Beauty Culture Association, a private organization with 100,000 members based in Seoul, said Friday at least 60 people each from both sides would take part in the event.

It will comprise reenactments of traditional Korean weddings, folk games and the etiquette associated with tradional Korean dress, and be sponsored by the Association of Koreans in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

"In February, we proposed to Kim Pong-chu, chairman of the North Korean General Federation of Trade Unions, that we hold beauty culture fetes in Seoul and in Pyongyang," Shin said.

"We haven't had any response from Kim, but Kim Min-ung, president of the Korean Association in Sakhalin, notified us on Wednesday that North Koreans would take part in the fete in Sakhalin. Kim said that he had confirmed the intention through the North Korean consul in Moscow."

North Korean participation in Sakhalin could lead to its presence at the "International Beauty Culture Championship" July 4-6 next year in Seoul, where people from 54 nations will compete in make-up and hair styling, Shin said.

Soviet Diplomat To Convey KAL Downing Message

SK2604021391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—A Soviet diplomat in Seoul said Thursday that Moscow would do its best to help solve the problems caused by the downing of a South Korean passenger jet in 1983 by a Soviet fighter plane.

Lohengrin Yeremenko, minister-counsellor at the Soviet Embassy, said the embassy would convey the positions of the Korean Government and relatives of the victims to the Soviet Government.

All 269 passengers and crew aboard Korean Air Lines flight 007 were killed on Sept. 1, 1983, when the airliner was shot down by a missile fired by a Soviet fighter plane.

The deputy mission chief made the remarks to Korean reporters after attending a National Assembly foreign affairs and national unification committee meeting at which an appeal for the truth of the KAL downing and compensation was debated.

Yeremenko said he was very sorry about the incident and would convey the atmosphere of the deliberation to his government.

Rep. Yu In-hak, who introduced the appeal to the committee, accused the Soviet Government of lacking sincerity and the Korean Government of being lukewarm on the issue.

Yu, a member of the main opposition New Democratic Union [NDU], urged the Soviet Union to make public the records from the jet's flight recorder, make an official apology, compensate relatives of the victims, allow a fact-finding mission to visit the area of the incident and hand over the remains and personal belongings of the victims.

Rep. Yi Chin-u of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and Rep . Cho Sun-sung of the NDU said the truth of the downing of KAL 007 should be revealed without fail for the sake of Korean-Soviet relations and that establishment of a monument to the victims, a trip to the site by relatives and deliverance of remains should be undertaken.

Seoul normalized relations with Moscow on Sept. 30 last year.

Committee members also said the Foreign Ministry should show a firm attitude to the Soviet Government concerning the matter.

Seoul Not To Guarantee Investments in USSR

SK2604013291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] The government will find it difficult to guarantee against loss in Korean businessmen's investment in the Soviet Union, said Deputy-Premier and Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu.

In reply to questions of lawmakers at the National Assembly yesterday, he said the businessmen's advance into the Soviet Union has to be pushed at their own risk. The government has no intention to control their business activities at the present moment, he said.

However, he did not rule out the possibility of the government intervening, by saying, "If business firms carry competition among themselves to an extreme in the Soviet market...."

The Energy-Resources Ministry is reviewing the feasibility of a project by the Dongwon Consolidated Mining Development Co. to exploit coal in Sakhalin. The Lucky Development Co. is moving to develop copper on the Soviet island, according to Choe.

The top economic policy-maker added that comprehensive plans are being drawn up to step up economic cooperation with the communist giant, foreseeing that expanded exchanges would lead to the establishment of an investment protection pact.

Prime Minister No Chae-pong, describing recent barter trade between South and North Korea as an "epoch-making turnaround," said that Seoul would try its best to make the most of the deal and promote "tangible progress" in inter-Korean relations.

He said that the administration would support more direct deals.

The prime ministers' talks, the highest channel of dialogue between the two parts of the peninsula, were unilaterally suspended late February by the North, citing the annual South Korea-U.S. military exercises, but North Korean government leaders last week hinted at the resumption of the meetings in the foreseeable future.

No suggested that a multi-billion dollar high-speed railroad between Seoul and the second largest city of Pusan would be pushed ahead with when it is urgently needed.

The administration recently formed a task force for the ambitious plan but delayed activating it apparently because of objections by some government agencies over its huge financial requirements.

The professor-turned prime minister, criticized by opposition Assemblymen for his "arrogant" attitude in the legislature, expressed regret several times for misdeeds of the administration including a controversial remark by Amb. Pak Su-kil of the Korean permanent mission in Geneva that Korea had to open its rice market because of U.S. pressure.

Joint Development With USSR on Sakhalin Noted

SK2604014291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] South Korea and the Soviet Union will embark on the joint development of natural gas on the Soviet island of Sakhalin, which was agreed upon in the April 19 summit meeting between President No Tae-u and Mikhail Gorbachev on Cheju Island, within this year.

The two countries will produce the natural gas on a full scale from 1997, about 8 million tons a year, a government sources said yesterday.

The natural gas to be produced, except that to be used by the two countries, will be exported to third countries, the source said.

In order to fix detailed plans, the two countries will have a meeting of working-level officials in May, and the talks are expected to be held in the United States, according to the source.

The Korean team will be headed by Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, and consist of relevant government officials and staffers from private firms.

The Soviet delegation will be led by Yuri Maslyukov, deputy prime minister of economic affairs, the source observed.

The scheduled meeting will be attended also be executives of the Becthel Co. of the United States, which is expected to take charge of supplying capital land technology for the gas exploitation.

The source said, on condition of anonymity, that Seoul and Moscow have already agreed on a basic plan for the project and are considering allowing Japan to take part.

The gas development project will cost a total of $4 billion and South Korea will use some 2 million tons per year from 1997, the source said.

Soviet Education Official Holds News Conference

SK2404100991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0943 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 24 (YONHAP)—The Soviet and South Korean Governments are consulting on a textbook to be used for teaching Korean to ethnic Koreans in the Soviet Union, Vladimir Shadrikov, first vice chairman of the State Committee for Public Education, said Wednesday.

Shadrikov, here since April 19 at the invitation of the Korean Council for University Education, made the remarks in a news conference in Seoul.

It was desirable for universities or education organizations to conclude agreements on academic exchanges, prior to conclusion of an education pact between Korea's Education Ministry and the Soviet State Committee for Public Education, he said.

The president and vice president of Moscow State University will visit to Seoul on April 28 to conclude an agreement on academic exchanges with Korean universities, including Seoul National.

Shadrikov is due to return home Friday [26 April].

NOVOSTI Official Arrives To Discuss Bureau

SK2604125191 Seoul YONHAP in English 1229 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—Yevgeniy Rumyantsev, vice chairman of the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI, arrived in Seoul Friday at the invitation of YONHAP News Agency.

Rumyantsev will have a series of meetings with Information Minister Choe Chang-yun and other government officials to discuss NOVOSTI's plan to open its bureau here.

He will also meet with YONHAP President Hyon Sohwan and is scheduled to interview Prime Minister No Chae-pong and other key government officials. He will stay here through May 3.

South-PRC Relations 'Cause No Harm to Anyone'

SK2604013891 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and China would cause no harm to anyone and instead would help ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, though it is not clear when it would come, the South official Moscow Radio said yesterday.

According to Naewoe Press in Seoul, the radio, citing South Korean news media, reported that the Seoul government decided to exert efforts to set up diplomatic ties with Beijing after the Korea-Soviet summit on Cheju Island last week.

The future paths of Seoul-Beijing relations would become clearer after Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to Pyongyang schedule for early May, the radio said.

The radio prospected that China and South Korea will most likely make contacts through their trade representative offices in Seoul and Beijing for negotiating the normalization of their ties.

The improvement in relations between Seoul and Beijing would, in turn, prompt North Korea to get closer to the United States and Japan, it said.

The radio said the fact that China's Foreign Ministry spokesman recently welcomed the summit between

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Korean President No Tae-u is a sign of the positive attitudes of Beijing officials toward the establishment of diplomatic relations with Seoul.

Reaction to Japan's Sending Minesweepers to Gulf

SK2504020791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea does not view the Japanese Government's dispatch of minesweepers to the Persian Gulf as a precedent for overseas dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"I think that Japan knows well that several countries in Asia pay deep attention and concern to Japan's overseas dispatch of its Self-Defense Forces," a spokesman for the ministry said.

The Japanese Government informed the Korean Government of such a position through the Korean Embassy in Japan on Monday, prior to making the decision to send the minesweepers, he said.

"This step was taken to achieve a limited goal, that is to get rid of mines in the Gulf, so it is not a precedent for Japan's overseas dispatch of her Self-Defense Forces," he said.

Media Sound 'Shrill' Warning

SK2604062791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0527 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Report by Kim Hung-suk entitled: "Media Sound Shrill Warning Against Japan's Mine Sweeper Dispatch"]

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—The South Korean mass media are sounding warning sirens all over the country against Japan's dispatch of mine sweepers to the Persian Gulf, but the government is making a low-key response to the unprecedented action by the nation's former colonizer.

In the eyes of most Korean news writers and commentators, the appearance of six Japanese naval vessels flying the "Rising Sun" flag in the Persian Gulf is synonymous with military expansionism and an undeniable precedent in Japan's continuous pursuit of excuses to dispatch its self-defense forces overseas.

"Why Japan? Why should Japan clear the mines when it did not even fight during the Gulf war?" The conservative morning daily CHOSON ILBO asked in an editorial Friday, describing the dispatch of mine sweepers as the fruit of a 46-year-long struggle for revenge since defeat in World War II.

"Japan is an ex-convict that has done this (invade other countries) since its war with Qing China in 1884. It makes us uncomfortable to see an ex-convict pick up the sword again, even if it is allegedly for peaceful purposes," CHOSON said.

The progressive daily HANGYORE SINMUN said in an editorial Friday that South Korea was not the only nation worried about the latest Japanese move.

"What worries us is not the noisy fuss in Japan over Article 99 of the self-defense forces law, the legal ground for overseas dispatch of the mine sweepers... Our concern stems from, though this is not a new thing at all, the constant outcry of Japan's rightist forces for political and military expansion suited to Japan's status as the world's No. 1 economic power, and the markedly weakening public protest against such a call," the paper said.

Predicting Japan would make strenuous efforts to slice away at the legal and systematic restrictions on military expansion to back the growth of its political influence in the international arena, the paper criticized the Korean Government for its "too passive" comment on the dispatch.

"Even if we consider that our foreign minister is visiting Japan to obtain Tokyo's explicit support for the government's bid for U.N. membership, we cannot but criticize the government for being too passive. The Foreign Ministry responded by saying only that Japan was well aware of the deep concern of several Asian countries," the paper said.

A ministry spokesman said Thursday: "I think Japan knows well that several countries in Asia pay deep attention and concern to Japan's overseas dispatch of its self-defense forces.

"This step was taken to achieve a limited goal, that is to get rid of mines in the Gulf, so it is not a precedent for Japan's overseas dispatch of her self-defense forces."

The anti-communist SEGYE TIMES editorially accused Japan of "gradually pulling down the borders of its peace Constitution."

In the Constitution, enforced in May 1947, Japan renounced the right to wage war.

"With its defense budget standing at around 30 billion U.S. dollars in 1990, Japan topped Asian nations and was ranked third in the world after the United States and the Soviet Union. As the Japanese defense expenditure will increase year by year in proportion to the growth of GNP (gross national product), we cannot but pay much attention to this," the paper said.

On creating the Self-Defense Forces in 1954, Japan affirmed that it would not send its military overseas, but signs are now abundant of a tarnishing of the "defense-only" spirit of the peace Constitution, the paper said.

"Japan has 'crossed the rubicon' at last by sending its Self-Defense Forces overseas for the first time since the end of World War II," the influential evening daily TONG-A ILBO said in a news analysis Thursday.

Since the dispatch was done without any revision to current laws and amid a lukewarm protest of opposition

parties, "Japan's drive for military expansion seems to have little in the way of brakes," TONG-A said.

Another mass circulation evening paper, the CHUNGANG DAILY NEWS, in an analysis described the sending of mine sweepers as "the first step" in Japan's march toward military power and said anxiety would further grow among its Asian neighbors, including South Korea and China.

"Above all the reasons, (Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki) Kaifu and other LDP (ruling Liberal Democratic Party) leaders have decided to push ahead with the dispatch, buoyed by the public tilt to conservatism or will to become a military superpower that has surfaced since the Gulf war," CHUNGANG said.

"The two rounds of provincial elections, on April 7 and 21, proved the people's tilt to the LDP government... A secret poll conducted by the prime minister's office recently showed that over 60 percent of the people are in favor of the dispatch of the mine sweepers. According to another poll, reported by the ASAHI SHIMBUN on Wednesday, pros (56 percent) far outnumbered cons (30 percent)."

Farmers Demand Envoy's Ouster Over Rice Issue

SK2604085291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Organizations representing more than 120,000 farmers demanded Friday that the South Korean ambassador to Geneva be fired for suggesting the country may open its rice market.

Lashing out at Pak Su-kil, head of Korea's permanent mission to Geneva and chief negotiator at the Uruguay Round trade talks, the Korean Association of Farmers' Organizations accused the ambassador of betraying his country and selling out the farmers.

Pak, visiting Seoul briefly this week, told reporters he personally believed opening the rice market was "inevitable."

The government said Thursday that the rice market would stay firmly closed indefinitely.

The association, comprising 11 farmers' organizations, issued a joint statement demanding that Pak be immediately replaced and saying it was unwilling to believe his comment was a personal opinion.

The remark reflected secret machinations within the Korean Government, it said.

Pak's remark, aside from the immediate material damage, caused shock and anger among farmers, the statement said.

Korea, along with Japan, is staunchly resisting efforts in the Uruguay Round to open its rice market.

Environment Minister Fired Over Pollution Issue

SK2504074791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0657 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—Environment Minister Ho Nam-hun was fired Thursday and replaced by Kwon Ui-hyok, a former health and social affairs minister, in an uproar over contamination of the water supply in Taegu with toxic chemicals for the second time in a month.

Vice Environment Minister Han Su-saeng was also dismissed, and Han Kap-su, president of the private Korea industry research institute, took his place.

They were sacked because they were responsible for the second release of phenol into the Naktong River and contamination of tap water in the area by a Doosan group subsidiary, presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong said.

President No Tae-u told Prime Minister No Chae-pong in the morning he intended to fire them on the recommendation of presidential secretary-general Chong Hae-chang, he said.

Kwon, 68, is a native of Kimpo in Kyonggi Province and a graduate of Seoul National University's [SNU] Medical School. He was president of the prestigious state university and is a former education minister and health and social affairs minister.

Han, 57, born in Najoo in South Cholla Province, is a graduate of SNU's Liberal Arts and Sciences School and a former vice chairman of the ruling party's policy committee.

Chonnohyop Plans To Take 'One-Day Leave' 1 May

SK2604010491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Apr 91

[Text] Tension is mounting as the nation's radical labor unions announced Wednesday their plan to take May 1 off to observe the 102nd Labor Day, which the government refuses to recognize.

The nation's largest organization of radical labor unions, Chonnohyop, or the National Alliance for Labor Movement, said more than 210,000 unionists of about 450 labor unions across the nation will take part in the one-day leave.

Chonnohyop and other radical trade unions plan to hold nationwide rallies May 1 To show their strong will to revive in Korea the worldwide-observed May Day.

The move of the dissident unions will likely become a major source of trouble for the government authorities, as the unions have already revealed their strategy to use the May Day struggle to give momentum to the ongoing wage struggle.

The efforts of the labor unions to win the three-year-old struggle against the government ban on May Day will be fueled by major dissident organizations in the nation, which have chosen May as the period to intensify their political struggle against the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

Chonminnyon and other major dissident groups came up with a strategy to initiate their major anti-government struggle this year by joining Chonnohyop's efforts to revive May Day and then to continue focusing on May 9, the anniversary of the ruling DLP's foundation, and May 18, the anniversary of the civil uprising in the southwestern city of Kwangju in 1980.

Labor and student activists and many other dissidents are likely to extend their efforts against the government to the large-district local council elections to be held in June.

The radical labor unions have resolved to end the issue of the official observance of May Day this year, insisting that the government ban on the Labor Day is nothing but a leftover of the Cold War.

Government To Control Bank Credit To Cool Boom

SK2604061291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—The government is to control bank credit to construction companies to cool the over-heated building boom, which is creating financial difficulties for other businesses, Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu said Friday.

Investment in the construction sector took the lion's share of demand for funds in the past few years, aggravating the liquidity shortage in other fields of industry, he said.

Demands from businesses across the nation increased by 20 trillion won (27.58 billion U.S. dollars) in the last two years and the demand for construction funding amounted to 18 trillion won.

Choe, who is also economic planning minister, said controlling construction investment at a proper level was badly needed and the government would strongly control financial organizations that extend credit to construction firms.

Choe said the government's goal of controlling the money supply growth rate at 17 percent to 19 percent this year does not mean a tight monetary policy and asked businesses to refrain from non-urgent and non-essential investment.

Last year, economic growth was led by construction and consumption-oriented industries and this fanned inflation. The government would induce businesses to shift their investment to rationalization to enhance competitive power and productivity, he said.

Trade Deficit Expected To Top Last Year's

SK2604105791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0922 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade deficit for the first four months could be even bigger than the shortfall for all of last year because of soaring imports of oil and machinery, the Customs Administration said Friday.

As of Wednesday, the trade deficit was 6.1 billion dollars. This is 26.5 percent or 1.28 billion dollars greater than the 4.8 billion dollars for the entire 12 months of 1990.

Exports on customs clearance basis hit 19.2 billion dollars, up 11.9 percent, and imports were up 25.9 percent at 25.3 billion dollars.

The deficit was 1.43 billion dollars in January, 1.88 billion dollars in February and 1.11 billion dollars in March, for a first-quarter total of 4.45 billion dollars.

Incoming letters of credit, a leading barometer measuring exports a few months ahead, edged up 4.7 percent to 15.6 billion dollars and import licenses shot up 27.2 percent to 23.4 billion dollars.

Based on the gloomy indications, it is extremely unlikely the 12-month deficit target of 6.5 billion dollars can be met.

At the end of the first quarter, Korea had trade deficits of 2.05 billion dollars with Japan and 782 million dollars with the United States, accounting for more than half of the total.

Burma

University, College To Reopen 14, 15 May

BK2504151191 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpts] It has been learned that all classes for the 1987-88 academic year will reopen on Tuesday, 14 May 1991 at the Moulmein University. Students who have already obtained permission to stay at Moulmein University hostels will be permitted to move in beginning 11 May 1991.

All correspondence and science course classes of the Moulmein University for the 1987-88 academic year will begin on 18 May. [passage omitted]

Authorities concerned have announced today that all classes at the Magwe Degree College under the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education will reopen on Wednesday, 15 May 1991. Students are to report to the Magwe Degree College beginning 10 May 1991, and students staying at hostels are to report to the hostel wardens concerned not earlier than 10 May.

Rangoon Commander Addresses Meeting on Security

BK2604034991 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the Yangon [Rangoon] Division Law and Order Restoration Council, held a meeting on security with directors general and managing directors from various ministries. The meeting was held in the conference hall of Yangon City Hall at 1400 today.

Attending the meeting were Brigadier General Win Myint, commander of the 11th Light Infantry Division; Brig. Gen. Tin Hla, commander of the 22d Light Infantry Division; Brig. Gen. Lun Maung, commander of the 55th Light Infantry Division; and directors general, managing directors, and responsible officials of various ministries.

Addressing the meeting, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said the reason for summoning the heads of departments concerned to the meeting was to discuss matters concerning security. He said without security no tasks can ever be carried out with complete success.

Today, although insurgents engaged in the armed struggle over different eras have been giving up their struggle because they have come to see the truth, some political parties, we understand, are trying to start an armed struggle for the sake of gaining power.

You, departmental heads, will recall the 108th press conference at which the secretary-1 [Major General Khin Nyunt of the State Law and Order Restoration Council] explained the exposure and arrest of about 30 underground elements working in different ministries. In addition, although we know that some children of senior officials are among the youths who have gone underground, some senior officials have not informed the authorities about their missing children or about their children's return home.

There is a possibility that those who are endeavoring to start an armed struggle to gain power will act according to the saying: Hide behind the bushes when in the jungle and behind the people when in the town. They will try to blend in with the underground elements within the departments and with the children of the senior officials. Because of a possibility that they will hide behind the people, it is vital to explain the situation to everyone in the departments—from the lower-levels up—as well as among the dependents of public service personnel.

Information in hand should be reported accurately and without any reserve. If we learn about the failure to give information, effective action will be taken against those concerned, he said.

We have been hearing about and investigating news that betting on the underground lottery, card playing, and other forms of gambling are going on in factories and mills. If we find the culprits, we will try them before military tribunals.

The commander said: When the Army, police, and responsible officials conduct searches and investigate cases regarding security, please help them. Effective action will be taken against any manner or act that leads to the breach of security.

In conclusion, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said: It is necessary to draft security measures for factories and mills that are in harmony with the times and to work toward implementing these measures. It is necessary to do the utmost to ensure peaceful study by the students at the colleges and universities which are to reopen soon.

The meeting ended at 1500.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir on Discussing Relations With Australia

BK1904121491 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Apr 91 pp 1,3

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Wed.—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed is willing to discuss Malaysia-Australia relations with Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke when they meet in London for the Commonwealth Heads of Government appraisal group meeting in June.

The Prime Minister said he was willing to meet Mr Hawke as "such matters can be discussed."

He said this to newsmen covering the Hari Raya [Id al-Fitr] open house at Seri Perdana yesterday on being asked to comment on a report quoting Mr. Hawke in

Canberra as saying that he would discuss "delicate issues" with Dr. Mahathir during the meeting.

On allegations by certain Australian officials that Dr. Mahathir did not answer a telephone call from Mr. Hawke, Dr. Mahathir said: "I don't remember receiving any calls from him."

The report quoted Mr Hawke as saying that he had not had an opportunity to hold direct discussions with Dr. Mahathir on the matter.

Mr. Hawke stated last Monday that he wanted to end diplomatic wrangling with Malaysia that began when an Australian television network aired a fictional programme entitled Embassy last October.

Dr. Mahathir had subsequently described Malaysia's relationship with Australia as "proper, not more than that".

He had said the relationship was based on the fact that each was an independent country.

Dr. Mahathir had also said that the current level of relationship between Australia and Malaysia was the result of Australia's attitude towards certain steps taken by this country in the past.

For instance, Australia had regarded Malaysia's treatment of dadah [cannabis] traffickers as "barbarous" and described the steps taken on national security in 1987 as "undemocratic."

He said Australia seemed to regard that it should set the standards on certain matters and wanted others to follow these standards. [passage omitted]

MCA Leader Concerned Over Indonesian 'Influx'

BK2304020691 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Apr 91 p 18

[Text] A Malaysian Chinese Association [MCA] leader has expressed concern over the lack of proper control over the influx of Indonesian workers and illegal immigrants in the country.

MCA deputy president Datuk Lee Kim Sai told the SHIN MIN DAILY NEWS that the foreign workers must be registered and that their entry into the country must be legal.

He said that Malaysia might face a problem in future should there be a conflict in its relations with Indonesia.

Datuk Lee, who was commenting on the influx of Indonesians in the country in a special report of the newspaper, suggested that the government should bring in Bangladeshi workers instead in the long run.

Citing both political and economic reasons, he said that the Indonesians, after working for some years at the palm oil estates, might bring back what they had learned on the latest technology in producing the commodity.

"This will increase Indonesia's competitiveness in palm oil plantation over ours and this is disadvantageous to our country," he said.

The report said that the number of Indonesians in the country was more than the 160,000 quoted by the government.

MCA Youth leader Datuk Chan Kong Choy said Indoensian workers must be admitted into Malaysia according to the needs of the labour market.

But he stressed that the government must ensure that the area of work they engage in would not compete with or pose a threat to local workers.

Datuk Chan said MCA Youth felt that the government had not done enough to stop the influx of Indonesian illegal immigrants.

In the east coast, he said, the government had done an excellent job in preventing Vietnamese and Cambodian boat people from entering the country.

MCA Official Views Chinese Community's Demands

BK2304030691 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Tanah Rata, Fri.—The MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] must not be afraid to tell the Chinese community how much and how far their demands can be met by the Government, its deputy president Datuk Lee Kim Sai said here today.

This will ensure the community understands our problems and our role," he said when opening the three-day MCA Youth seminar at Convent Youth Centre here this evening.

He had, on arrival, inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 126 party cadres from the MCA Selayang Division and Selangor MCA Youth and Wanita members.

Datuk Lee said only in this way could the party discard the burden of promising something which it could not deliver and win back the confidence of the Chinese.

Datuk Lee, who is also Health Minister, called on all party representatives in the State and Federal Government to actively participate in the formation of government policies.

This was to ensure that the policies were fair and acceptable to the multi-racial society in line with the Barisan Nasional [as published] spirit.

Since Merdeka, he said, this spirit had brought about fair policies. However, there were discrepancies in implementation.

He said party representatives should play a role as a watch-dog in the implementation of the government's policies.

Datuk Lee said the MCA was not a communal party and all this years it had been defending Chinese political, economic, educational and cultural interests so that they would be in line with the mainstream of nation-building.

The last general election had proved that the Malays had accepted the concept "Umno is Malay, Malay is Umno," he added.

"On the other hand the Chinese community had not accepted the concept that MCA is Chinese and Chinese is MCA."

"Obviously, there are Chinese who seek the help of the MCA when they have problems but do not vote for the party," he said.

Resignation Effect on Sabah Ruling Party Noted

BK2604082691 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Apr 91 p 18

[By Kalimullah Hassan]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Sabah's ruling Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) is becoming increasingly isolated from the Muslim community following the resignation of its assemblyman, Datuk Salleh Said Keruak, on Tuesday [23 April].

Datuk Salleh, son of the Sabah Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Said Keruak, was being groomed by PBS leaders as a Muslim leader.

The PBS has warded off accusations that it is anti-Muslim by saying that it has Muslim leaders in its fold. However, since the setting up of UMNO [United Malays National Organization] in Sabah in February, several Muslim PBS leaders have defected to UMNO.

Datuk Salleh's resignation is by far the most significant loss suffered by the PBS and will probably affect its chances of winning the May 11 by-election in Usukan, a predominantly Muslim constituency.

Datuk Salleh was head of the PBS' Usukan division and is president of the United Sabah Bajaus Association. Bajaus form the majority in the Usukan constituency.

He is expected to join UMNO in the next few days and campaign for the UMNO candidate in Usukan.

Prior to his resignation, UMNO leaders were predicting a 50-50 chance of winning but now, they are more confident.

The Usukan seat has traditionally been won by Muslim candidates from the United Sabah National [USNO]. However, USNO has become a shell party with all but 11 of its members having joined UMNO en bloc in February.

The seat, held by former USNO president Tun Mustapha Harun, was declared vacant when he joined UMNO.

Sabah law stipulates that any elected representative who switches party has to vacate his seat.

The PBS, which opposed UMNO's expansion into Sabah, had seen the Usukan by-election as an opportunity to prove that Sabahans did not want a federal-based party in the state.

UMNO, which has accused the PBS of fanning anti-federal sentiments, seeks to win its first election in Sabah and extend its grip on Malaysian politics beyond the peninsula to East Malaysia.

Datuk Salleh, 34, quit after the PBS decided to contest Usukan. He had urged the PBS leadership to refrain from contesting the seat in order to improve its ties with UMNO and the federal government.

Observers of Sabah politics say that Datuk Salleh's resignation has further aggravated the religious divisions in the state.

"It appears that the majority of the Muslims are on one side, UMNO, and the Christian Kadazans and Chinese on the other side, PBS," a senior diplomat said.

However, an UMNO Supreme Council member differed, saying that Chinese businessmen, affected by the bad federal-state relations, are now more inclined to part ways with the PBS.

"It is a potentially unhealthy situation. If the PBS leaders persist in stirring up anti-federal sentiments, they will find that the Kadazans may be left out of the mainstream of Malaysian and Sabah politics," he warned.

The PBS has to prove that, despite the Muslim defections, it still enjoys multi-racial and multi-religious support. "One way it can prove this is by winning a traditionally Muslim seat like Usukan," an observer said.

Singapore

Officers Leave for Iraq-Kuwait UN Mission

BK2504173491 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Apr 91 p 19

[Excerpt] Singapore should join other countries in making every effort to bring about greater world peace and security, Senior Minister of State (Defence) Dr Lee Boon Yang said yesterday.

He was speaking at Changi Airport where he sent off seven SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] officers who will be joining the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) at the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Dr Lee said that the recent Gulf war was a reminder that "we still live in a world of uncertainty."

"Security and survival of nations cannot be taken for granted. Singapore, like all other small countries, is particularly vulnerable in this area.

"We must therefore join other countries to do whatever we can to bring about greater world peace and security."

In his speech, Dr Lee also urged the SAF officers to learn from fellow peacekeeping officers by exchanging professional ideas and learning about each other's values and ideals.

The seven—six from the army and one from the air force—will join a 300-strong military observer team in patrolling the 200-km border of Iraq and Kuwait and maintaining a demilitarised zone 10 km into Iraq and about 5 km into Kuwait.

Major Chow Siew Keong, Head of Training Cadre, Artillery Reserve Training Centre, is the team leader of the mission, which is code-nameed Blue Torch.

The others are Major Lim Liong Chye, Major Lau Chee Leong, Major Ibrahim Bulat, Major Sim Khee Lian, Captain Lok Weng Kit and Captain Ravinder Singh. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Accept Voluntary Cease-Fire Call

BK2604090491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 26 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge, the military muscle of the Cambodian resistance movement, said Friday it accepted a call from France, Indonesia and the U.N. Secretary General for a voluntary cease-fire in Cambodia. "We accept the call of the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and we are pleased with that call," Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan told reporters after a lunch hosted by Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun for the leaders of the loose guerrilla alliance.

The international conference is chaired jointly by France and Indonesia, who, together with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, have urged Cambodia's warring factions to observe a temporary cease-fire from May 1 until the conclusion of a meeting of their representives scheduled in Jakarta for next month.

'Reliable Sources' on Cease-Fire Call

BK2604005891 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 25 Apr 91

["Special report from Phnom Penh"]

[Text] Reliable sources in Phnom Penh have revealed that on 18 and 19 April 1991, leaders of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and leaders of Vietnam's puppets in Phnom Penh knew beforehand about the appeal by the cochairmen of the Paris Conference and the United Nations calling on all parties involved in the Cambodian conflict to observe a cease-fire from 1 May to the end of the meeting in Jakarta. The meeting of Vietnamese leaders and puppet leaders in Phnom Penh has decided the following.

1. The plan of the Hanoi Vietnamese and Phnom Penh puppets should proceed unchanged in every aspect. Military, political, and diplomatic activities should continue.

2. The 5th Military Region in Battambang and the 4th Military Region in Siem Reap have been urged to rally forces and implement the plan to launch offensives against Pailin, Thmar Puok, Samlot, and Banteay Ampil.

3. Diplomatically, a statement should be made in support of the cease-fire proposed by the cochairmen of the Paris conference and the United Nations.

4. The Political Department, Secretariat, and General Staff of Vietnam's puppets in Phnom Penh have set up combined delegations to disseminate the above decisions to all military regions, particularly the 5th Military Region in Battambang.

The sources in Phnom Penh also say that these four decisions were made in order to, on the one hand, continue military offensives, and on the other, launch diplomatic offensives to have the upper hand in case the resistance forces, particularly Democratic Kampuchea, do not accept the cease-fire appeal of the cochairmen and the United Nations. In such a case, the Hanoi Vietnamese and their puppets in Phnom Penh will have an ample excuse not to attend the Jakarta meeting or any other meetings within the framework of the document of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and in the framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Various diplomatic sources say that during the war with the United States from 1960 to 1975, the Hanoi Vietnamese used all kinds of diplomatic maneuvers to confuse and cause severe headaches for Harriman, Lodge, and Kissinger. In these diplomatic and political maneuvers, Vietnam proposed an annual cease-fire over the Tet festival starting from 1964. The most celebrated cease-fire of the Hanoi Vietnamese was the one over the Tet festival in 1968, which Vietnam has named the great Tet 1968 offensive.

Various political and diplomatic sources also agree that in order to solve the Cambodian problem, the Hanoi Vietnamese and Phnom Penh should genuinely accept the UNSC document. If the Hanoi Vietnamese and Phnom Penh continue to use this or that pretext not to accept the document or destroy the UNSC document, the war will continue.

There are also reports saying that Khieu Samphan has left for the meeting of the Cambodian national government concerning the appeal by the cochairmen and the United Nations in his capacity as one responsible for the destiny of our Cambodian nation and people against whom the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have committed aggression and have occupied and controlled.

PRACHEACHON Welcomes Cease-Fire Call

BK2604063891 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "We Welcome an Important Initiative"]

[Text] In a joint statement recently made public in Paris and Jakarta, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] and the UN secretary general appealed to all Cambodian parties to observe a voluntary cease-fire as of 1 May 1991.

This is an important initiative that would meet the aspirations of the Cambodian people and the goodwill for peace of the State of Cambodia. Lately, we have repeatedly proposed that a voluntary cease-fire be implemented as soon as possible, and we have even asked the UN secretary general and the PICC cochairmen to set a specific date for the enforcement of this voluntary cease-fire.

During the past dry season, with the goodwill to secure a voluntary cease-fire, the State of Cambodia took the initiative of declaring that it would not be the first to attack the genocidal Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann alliance if the latter would react in the same manner. However, it is regrettable that during the past dry season, the forces of the genocidal Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann alliance took advantage of the State of Cambodia's goodwill to bring more weapons into the country and launch attacks in a wanton war escalation against a number of remote regions, intensifying destructive activities to wreak havoc on the property and lives of our people, thus more than ever showing that the threat of a return by the genocidal regime is most real and tangible. Therefore, the question to the PICC cochairmen and UN secretary general's call for the observance of a voluntary cease-fire remains whether the genocidal Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann alliance seriously accepts it at a time when this alliance is suffering one setback after another on every battlefield during the dry season.

The Government of the State of Cambodia joyously receives the news and solemnly welcomes this appeal. We in turn would like to appeal to the PICC cochairmen, the United Nations, and countries involved in the Cambodian problem to help further promote the efforts to turn this voluntary cease-fire into reality in accordance with the existing agreement on the voluntary self-restraint use of force.

Our people and armed forces would constantly raise their vigilance and their determination never to allow the enemies to take advantage of the cease-fire to transport arms and munitions into the country and hide them in preparation for future offensives to seize superiority on the battlefield and compensate for their defeats suffered during the past dry season. We would like to reaffirm that the peace we insist on is free from the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and would not preclude independence, sovereignty, and the right to self- determination of the Cambodian people.

SPK Reports Hor Namhong Trip to Moscow

BK2604024891 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0440 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Apr (SPK)—Foreign Minister of the State of Cambodia Hor Namhong is currently on a working visit in Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

He is accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Phi Thach and others.

Hor Namhong Meets Soviet Officials

BK2604024691 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0435 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Apr (SPK)—Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Wednesday continued his talks with Soviet officials on the settlement of the Cambodian conflict, announces TASS and quoted by AFP.

Hor Namhong, who met on Tuesday with his Soviet counterpart, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, on Wednesday held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev.

The UN peace plan for Cambodia, worked out by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, United States, France, Great Britain, and the USSR), ratified by the entire Council, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly last December, constitutes a realistic basis for settling the Cambodian conflict, according to TASS.

The Soviet minister is pleased with the intention shown by the Cambodian Government to attend the planned meeting in Jakarta of the cochairmen of the Paris conference (France and Indonesia) and the Supreme National Council comprising 12 members, six named by the Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh and another six named by the three Cambodian factions fighting this government.

Phnom Penh, French City Promote Cooperation

BK2604051091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0345 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh Spk April 26—A draft protocol on the setting up of friendship and cooperation associations between the city of Phnom Penh and Montreuil city of France was concluded here on April 18 by Phnom Penh Mayor Hok Langdi and Montreuil Mayor Jean Pierre Brard. The two associations are headed by the two mayors respectively.

Under the protocol, the two sides will strengthen their economic relations and facilitate investments in Cambodia, and work out a program for the holding of a seminar in France on Pol Pot's genocidal regime.

Montreuil city will give Phnom Penh 10 coaches, a number of garbage-collecting trucks, and French text

books for primary and secondary education. It will also grant scholarships for Cambodian medical students and engineers.

Indonesia

Ali Alatas on UN, Cambodia Meeting, East Timor

AU2504121691 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 25 Apr 91 p 4

[Andreas Schwarz report on interview with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in Vienna; date not given. "Cambodia Solution This Year"]

[Text] Vienna—In an interview with DIE PRESSE, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, cochairman of the International Cambodia Conference, seemed to be optimistic that a final agreement of the parties involved in a solution for Cambodia might be reached this year. Under these conditions, the implementation of the UN resolutions—including Austrian participation—might become effective as of next year. Such a timetable could suit the foreign minister of the country with the fifth biggest population in the world. After all, he is a candidate to succeed UN Secretary Perez de Cuellar, a decision that has to be made at the end of the year.

Asked whether he is a possible successor, Alatas said: "When the time comes we would not refuse," but also hinted that this issue belongs to the realm of speculation. His current visit to several European countries is definitely not a "good-will-tour" in connection with his UN plans.

The Indonesian official, who paid a three-day official visit to Austria, gathered UN experience not only as a negotiator in the Cambodia talks but also as longstanding Indonesian UN ambassador in New York. Alatas notes with satisfaction the United Nations' growing importance ("finally the Security Council is working"). "After the end of the East-West conflict, those parts of the international organization must also be strengthened that might help solve the problems concerning the gap between the north and south," Ali Alatas noted, thus virtually outlining his program, not without adding that the United Nations must place much more emphasis on global issues such as the environment, the narcotics trade, or terrorism.

As regards Cambodia, Alatas does not want to speak of a standstill in the peace process—no progress has been made since the UN peace plan was presented last fall and all parties came closer to an agreement in late December—but merely of a "slight delay."

Before new life is breathed into the international Cambodia conference in Paris, no other meeting has been held because of international developments (Gulf), he said. The meeting of the Supreme National Council, which consists of the members of the Phnom Penh government and three resistance groups, is now scheduled to be held in Djakarta in May.

Alatas argued that there is still disagreement concerning the UN peace plan, which was drawn up by the five Security Council members, and under which the United Nations would assume most government functions for a transition period until free elections are held, while the previously mentioned Supreme National Council would represent Cambodia.

The main problem is the practical relationship between the National Council and transition government, in particular the military agreements, the desired disarmament (which is rejected by the resistance), and demobilization. "Moreover, concrete measures have to be included in the agreement that prevent a return to the old policy and genocide," Alatas said, referring to the terrible regime of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge.

Today, the same Khmer Rouge are fighting against the government in Phnom Penh, while at the same time they are represented in the National Council. Asked whether he believes that the fighters, who have so far only specialized in the use of arms, will obey democratic rules, Alatas does not give a straight answer but replies that this is not a question of what one believes but one of rules that have to be set up and implemented, and the possibility to resort to sanctions if these rules are not respected.

Asked about the annexation of East Timor (1976), Alatas takes a breath and then notes that the Portuguese simply abandoned their colony at the time, leaving half of the island unpacified, with "a small group advocating independence," another one integration with Indonesia, and a third one being undecided. Djakarta only intervened after the civil war broke out and then presented various proposals (for a group of UN observers, for example), all of which were turned down by Lisbon.

Is a referendum on independence for East Timor or parts of it conceivable? "Not any more," Alatas said, rejecting the accusations of human rights violations "and being solely responsible for the situation in East Timor."

'No Ambition' To Annex Papua New Guinea Land

BK2604014891 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] The Indonesian Government has no ambition at all to expand its territory by annexing Papua New Guinean territory. The Papua New Guinean Government's anxiety based on political rumors lately unleashed by a third party is unfounded.

Agung Pramono, defense attache of the Indonesian Embassy in Papua New Guinea, said the Indonesian Government is currently determined to enhance development, friendship, and mutual trust to promote the welfare of citizens, particularly those living on the border between the two countries. General Try Sutrisno, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, explained the Indonesian determination to the Papua New Guinean Government during a visit to Port

Moresby in early December 1990. According to Agung Pramono, bilateral relations have been further strengthened despite that government's continued suspicion of Indonesia's good intention as a result of the rumors unleashed by the third party.

Australian Defense Minister on 'Cordial' Ties

BK2504170491 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Australian Defense Minister Robert Ray says the issue of Indonesian fishermen, especially from Maluku, East Nusatenggara, South Sulawesi, and Southeast Sulawesi, who are often arrested by Australian Navy ships, by no means affects cordial relations between the two countries. The Australian Government does not view the issue as something that can affect good-neighborly relations between the two nations, which have always lived peacefully together.

Robert Ray was speaking to an ANTARA correspondent after he attended celebrations to mark the ANZAC [Australia New Zealand Army Corps] day in Ambon today. He added that the Australian Government simply views the issue from the angle of the growing fishery industry in that country. Therefore, there are no other motives behind the arrests of Indonesian fishermen. The two neighboring countries continue to maintain cordial relations and cooperation in various fields.

Laos

President Receives Outgoing PRC Ambassador

BK2604054691 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] This morning, Souphanouvong, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received at his residence in Vientiane a farewell courtesy call from Liang Feng, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to the LPDR, who has just completed his term of diplomatic service in Laos.

The guest and the host talked with each other in a friendly atmosphere. On this occasion, President Souphanouvong praised and hailed Liang Feng for his contribution to establishing and fruitfully developing the friendly relations between the two countries of Laos and China. He also wished the outgoing ambassador success in his new tasks.

PRC Envoy Fetes Diplomatic Ties Anniversary

BK2604054291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Yesterday evening Liang Feng, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and his wife organized a reception at their embassy in Vientiane to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the LPDR and the PRC.

Attending the reception as guests of honor on this occasion were Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and minister of trade and tourism, along with a number of members of the party Central Committee, ministers, and deputy ministers.

In their speeches delivered at the reception, Inkong Mahavong, chairman of the Lao-Chinese Friendship Association, and Ambassador Liang Feng noted the fruitful development of the relations and cooperation between the two countries throughout the past 30 years. Both of them expressed hope that in the immediate future, relations and cooperation will be further promoted, expanded, and improved even more effectively and fruitfully.

SPA Chairman Receives SRV Justice Delegation

BK2604092091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] This morning Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], received a courtesy call from a delegation of the SRV Justice Ministry, which is currently paying an official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. On this occasion, Nouhak Phoumsavan and Phan Hien, Vietnamese justice minister and head of the delegation, met and held talks in a friendly atmosphere. They briefed each other on the recent work regarding the court of justice. Nouhak Phoumsavan welcomed the SRV delegation's visit to the LPDR, which, he said, has contributed to further enhancing and promoting, ever more efficiently, the relations and cooperation between the two countries in this field.

That afternoon, Phan Hien and his delegation left Vientiane for home, at the conclusion of a one-week visit.

Philippines

Reportage on U.S. Bases Agreement Negotiations

Aquino: Government May Terminate Agreement

HK2504104491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] President Aquino today announced that the Philippine Government may now present to the United States a notice of termination of the mutual bases agreement. This will take effect on 16 September this year. This is the president's response to a report stating that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has abrogated the 40-year old Republic of the Philippines-United States Mutual Bases Defense Treaty. Tanny Rodgriguez reports:

[Begin recording] The president said that this treaty is still one of the important issues which is yet to be decided upon in the next and final series of the talks between the two panels, scheduled to take place at the end of this month. The president mentioned that the

country's position on the compensation package and the length of stay of the U.S. military installation in the Philippines have been presented to the U.S. panel. However, the Philippine panel is still awaiting the response to these issues from U.S. bases negotiator Richard Armitage in the next talks with the United States. [end recording]

Aquino Unsure of Reaching Agreement

HK2604095891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Report by Sonny Casulla]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino said today that a new military bases agreement may not be reached by the United States and the Philippines during the last round of negotiation talks scheduled this coming Tuesday.

In a press statement, the president said that up until this moment, the government is still waiting for the reply of the United States regarding the Philippine position about the military bases.

According to the president, because the government has not received the U.S. reply, it cannot be acertained if there can be a new treaty. The president stressed that without a treaty, there is no more need for public consultation. The government is just awaiting the reply of the United States regarding the $825 million annual compensation being required by the Philippines within the five- to seven-year retention period.

Earlier, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said that the position of the Philippine panel in the issue of compensation and duration of retention is flexible. Nonetheless, the president refused to comment on whether the $500 million counteroffer of the United States is acceptable to the government or not.

The president also said that there should be flexibility from both sides of the negotiating panels. According to the president, it is just natural that any negotiation consists of contradicting interests and, therefore, there should be room for flexibility.

Manglapus Urges U.S. 'Leniency'

HK2504150691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said today that the United States should show leniency in its negotiations with the Philippines if it wants its military bases extended in the country. In a news conference, Manglapus said the Americans requested the negotiations and it is up to them if they want to close their military facilities in the country. Both sides will resume their talks on 30 April to try to hammer out an agreement regarding the military bases. The bases extension of stay and compensation issues have hindered efforts to sign a new agreement.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is willing to accept excess U.S. military equipment as part of the compensation under a new military bases agreement. According to Manglapus, the remaining portion of the compensation may also include securing U.S. import qoutas on Filipino products and an annual debt condonation of $50 million.

Referendum To Be Held on Bases

HK2604111291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Italicized passage in English]

[Excerpt] In view of the possibility that the Senate will not ratify the U.S. military bases treaty, Malacanang announced that after a treaty has been reached, it will call for a referendum so the people can make their decision on the bases.

The motive for the bases referendum is to ensure that the Senate will ratify the bases treaty if the result in the referendum is favorable to the retention of the U.S. bases in the country.

[Secretary of Foreign Affairs] Manglapus also announced that he and Armitage are optimistic that they can arrive at a new treaty.

We have to conclude a treaty if we want something to be ratified by both Senates, according to Manglapus.

Congress Moves To Abolish U.S. Defense Treaty

HK2504151291 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 91

[By Jennifer Postigo]

[Text] Congressman Bonifacio, leader of the progressive block in the lower house, has concurred with the resolution abolishing the 1951 mutual defense treaty forwarded in the Senate.

Under the treaty, the United States or the Philippines will help the other if either is threatened by an attack from any country from the Pacific. But according to Congressman Gillego, due to the changing times, countries such as the Soviet Union, China, and Vietnam, which used to be considered external threats, are no longer.

In view of this, it is really pertinent now to abolish the treaty. Gillego also added that he is ready to submit the same resolution in the lower house.

At the side of Congressman Jose De Venicia, chairman of House Foreign Affairs Committee, he said that the resolution would be a manifestation of the Senate's approval for the termination of any relation between the United States and the Philippines. De Venicia promised to start the hearing on the resolution immediately.

Committee Approval Still Pending

HK2504150291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Senate's report regarding a resolution seeking the abrogation of the Mutual Defense Treaty does not mean that this had already been approved by the Foreign Relations Committee. This was clarified by Committee Chairman Leticia Ramos-Shahani, saying that the committee decided to report this so that the resolution may be debated during the plenary session. This strengthened the opposition to the committee report by several senators, who maintained that the issue should have been discussed first at the executive session. Senator Shahani said, however, that so much time had been wasted waiting for each senator's position. She added that the issue may only be resolved if this is submitted for debate during the plenary session.

Senate Concern Over Bases Consultations Viewed

HK2504144491 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 25 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "'Consultations' and dirty tricks"]

[Text] President Aquino's plan to hold public "consultations" on the new military bases treaty with the United States has kicked up a political storm. Members of the Senate, the treaty-ratifying chamber of Congress, have reacted strongly. They have threatened to impeach her, claiming that the consultations would be an attempt to put pressure on the Senate to ratify the treaty, thereby violating the Constitution.

Although the mechanics of such public consultations are yet unclear, the Palace has indicated that these would be drawn up after the completion of the draft treaty and before the Senate could vote on it. The mechanics promise to be a contentious issue. Consultations can mean an open public debate or a rigged campaign to get certain groups to endorse the government's position.

An open debate is perfectly legitimate. It can crystallize the issues by focusing on the contents of the new treaty. But if political or social groups would be manipulated to give a semblance of public opinion in support of ratification, the purpose of an informed public debate would be debased. This form of manipulation has happened in the past. At the very least, the government appears to play an active role in the ratification process. The government, as well as the anti-bases senators and groups, is aware of surveys showing a large public opinion base in favor of the retention of the bases. More important, Manila opinion has swung around to the pro-bases opinion widespread in the provinces.

The President's plan, therefore, may be seen as an attempt to stir greater public awareness of widespread support for the bases, under certain conditions, and to undermine the position of the Senate, which is the stronghold of the anti-bases point of view, by showing that it is moving against "public opinion."

Historically, the Senate has been the arena of conflict over foreign policy. The President's plans will ignite that conflict.

But the issues of the debate will be influenced by the compensation package promised in the treaty, now at its final stages of negotiations. If the package were seen as promoting economic development and giving the Philippines access to new economic resources leading to relative political and economic sovereignty, the administration would have little difficulty having the treaty accepted in the plebiscite.

What the administration will introduce in the consultations is an informal process of public-opinion manipulation ahead of the referendum vote, which should take place after Congress has voted.

In this sense, the Senate has reason to be anxious that they are being set up by the government. These tactics were not used even during the plebiscite to ram the notorious parity provisions of the Constitution. There seem here the makings of dirty tricks.

Aquino Interviewed on Economy, U.S. Bases

HK2204133191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1300 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Interview with President Corazon Aquino on her weekly "Ask the President" program by Amy Pamintuan of the PHILIPPINE STAR and president of the Malacanang media, Marcia Rodriguez of the MANILA BULLETIN and secretary of the Malacanang media, and Lito Zulueta of THE CHRONICLE and auditor of the Malacanang media—live or recorded in English; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Excerpts] [Pamintuan] *First of all Mrs. President, the members of the Malacanang Press Corps are grateful for this opportunity to interview you on your program instead of just being listeners.* So, maybe we can start the first question. [Words indistinct] to institute them it seems there are investors who are shying away from investing in the Philippines. They are complaining about infrastructures which they say are inadequate, the peace and order situation, and recently the import levy; and they are asking for more incentives for investors. So, with only 13 months left in your term, Mrs. President, how do you intend to attract substantial amount of investments in the country?

[Aquino] Well, in fact, I was visited by the president of the Mitsubishi Corporation. Mr. Murahashi told me that they are expanding their investments here. *The good thing is that the successful investors who are already here are the ones increasing their investments here and are convincing their countrymen to come to our country. It is true there are those who complain. They want telephones to be installed and the roads improved. Investors in the Philippines are not the only ones having complaints. This happens all over the world.* But what government is trying to do and, in fact, we have really worked hard on this, is

to improve the infrastructure. We are aware that for example, without telephones it will really be impossible for these businesses to operate effectively. But in fact, we have many successful industrial estates, and one of them is in the Cavite Export Processing Zone. From the time that I assumed office, we have had many more investors coming here. And they are, in particular, very pleased in the industrial peace obtained in there. So, what government will do is get other industrial estates to replicate what is being done in Cavite; and, even in Bataan, there is a marked improvement. So, if this can be replicated in as many parts of the country as possible, then we will have more of these investors.

[Rodriguez] For the past five years, the Philippines has been a good debtor country [words indistinct], but there are some officials in the Department of Budget and Management who feel that our debt negotiators have been working for the interest of creditor nations rather than our own interest. [sentence indistinct] After five years, ma'am, will there be any change in our approach to credit (?decision)?

[Aquino] Well, first of all, tell those officials from the Department of Budget and Management to come to me and tell me what it is that they are recommending instead of (?coursing) it to other persons. But of course, we will look for further improvements in our negotiating stand, so that we will get better and more loans, so that it will rebound to the benefit of the country. But as you know, it is not only us, the Philippines, that is borrowing from the creditor countries or from the banks. So naturally, when you borrow money, you have to conform to certain rules. *Like you, if you apply for a loan from the bank, they will not immediately give you the money. First, you have to promise to do something, and they have to see to it that you can pay back your loan. What I want is for us Filipinos to unite and help each other instead of criticizing each other on this matter. Actually, even if we went through a lot of difficulties, our economy is picking up and I hope it continues to improve during 1991.*

[Zulueta] Our Congress is still [words indistinct], what is your legislative agenda especially in the area of the economy?

[Aquino] Well, that would also be my last state of the nation address. And even now, well, my staff has already been preparing for that; and what I intend to do is compile all of the accomplishments of my administration during the past five years so that anybody who would like to see what kind of record we have, will just go through this volume that we will be publishing. In fact, even before July, as we resumed session tomorrow, what we intend to do is again appeal to them to pass the necessary measures that we have endorsed to them as administration bills. In particular, I hope that the Local Autonomy bill will finally be passed as this is eagerly awaited, not only by the local government officials; but we believe it will lead to a better implementation of the government projects, if these powers are devolved to the local officials.

[Zulueta] Ma'am, corollary to the economy, the labor groups are expected to make another pitch for a new round of wage increases. Now, of course, I am a former labor reporter and they always make such demand during labor day. I don't know if it's for the sake of drama or if it's an authentic demand. Nevertheless, if they make such a demand, what will be your answer?

[Aquino] Well, in fact, Secretary Torres has already stated that based on the labor's regulatory council, Wage Regulatory Councils, no increases are forthcoming until a year after. But anyway, what we are looking for are the nonwage benefits whereby we can help the labor sector also address their concerns.

And, in fact, what we are looking for and this is what I mention in my speech before the Associated Labor Union-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines that they would in effect also be entrepreneurs, in that with the help of government, some funds would be made available to them so that they could engage in business enterprises or in livelihood projects.

[Pamintuan] Ma'am, both chambers of Congress are also pushing for debt cap. Do you think this will affect our standing in the international financing community, and will there be changes in our negotiating stand with this clamor from Congress?

[Aquino] Well, there are two different versions of course from the Senate and the House, and we are awaiting what the final version will be. I would naturally not comment on that because if we will be commenting on something that is not to be, I think, you know, it is not really very productive. But, I hope that our Congress will also consider what will happen if we are unable to honor our debts. But I am also directing this to our creditors to look upon us more kindly and also consider that we have been very good debtors, so that we should be entitled to more concessional ways and also to help us in our need for new money.

[Pamintuan] In connection with this, there are also reports that we are tying up the bases with the foreign debt relief and with the Philippine Assistance Program?

[Aquino] With regards to the Philippine Assistance Program, we cannot tie it to that. And from the very beginning, when the MAI [Multilateral Aid Incentive] was conceived, in fact, by American senators and congressmen, they had said that this had nothing to do with their bases here because as you know, this is a multilateral aid initiative and the other countries who are participating as donors would really find problems and have problems with their constitutions if this will be tied to the bases.

[Rodriguez] Ma'am, the two panels are still deadlocked on the issue of the compensation; would you request the U.S. military to leave the country? If there is no treaty signed by September 16, it is the deadline and the expiry of the 1947 military bases agreement, what are the options of your administration?

[Aquino] Well, first of all, it is not really a deadlock. We are just waiting for the response of Mr. Armitage. Secretary Manglapus had written to him and again reiterated our compensation package of $400 million in the hard cash and the $425 in the so-called soft components. So, we are awaiting a response to that and I am still very hopeful that we will come to an agreement before September 1991.

[Rodriguez] Do you foresee any compromise in these two issues?

[Aquino] Well, I would much rather await the response of the American panel based on the letter sent by Secretary Manglapus.

[Zulueta] The government is looking for financing, of course, to cushion the economy and one source of financing is the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, which the government is supposed to recover. With 13 months left in your administration, what are the prospects for the recovery of these ill-gotten wealth, especially in the light of the setback suffered by the government in the Supreme Court case regarding the San Miguel Corporation shares of Mr. Danding Cojuangco?

[Aquino] Yes, of course, it is really unfortunate that we did suffer a setback because of the Supreme Court decision allowing my cousin, Danding Cojuangco, to vote his shares. However, I'm also glad that the Supreme Court also said that they will wait for the government to file its motion for reconsideration. And again, I am very hopeful that this motion for reconsideration of ours will prove beneficial to government, insofar as the recovery of the ill-gotten assets are concerned. In the case of the Swiss deposits of the Marcoses, as you know last December, the Swiss court had said that $350 million would be awarded to the Philippine Government provided there will be criminal charges filed against Mrs. Marcos. I have instructed the solicitor general to go to Switzerland in order to seek further clarification on what this decision of the Swiss court would entail, whether new filing would suffice or whether a conviction is being called for. So, when he comes back, we will report to the people what exactly the Swiss courts are demanding.

[Zulueta] Ma'am, regarding the gap, do you foresee any reconciliation in the near future, at least in the filial level?

[Aquino] I suppose so. You know, between relatives against...there are times when there are some misunderstanding but I guess we are all Christians; and, at a certain point, I suppose there will be reconciliation, but again I would like to stress that reconciliation should be based on justice. And then while it's true he is my cousin, but my greater obligation of course is to the Filipino people. So, it will have to...justice will have to be done to the Filipino people before we think of reconciliation.

[Zulueta] Does that also go with Mrs. Marcos?

[Aquino] Yes. The same thing because as president of the Filipino people, it is of course my obligation to look after their interest and at the same time being a Christian, yes, you do think of reconciliation but always based on justice.

[Pamintuan] Ma'am are you satisfied with the way the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth is going on?

[Aquino] Well, of course, we would like it much faster. We would like more money, but then what I would like to remind and impress upon the Filipino people is that we are living under a democracy and that we have to go through due process and everybody is entitled to due process. But I hope that we will get more, well, committed individuals who would be, well, helping us by acting as witnesses in these cases. [passage omitted]

[Zulueta] Now, ma'am looking back with this experience. You are a woman, you're a woman commander in chief, a woman president presiding over a nation which has a macho culture. How would you assess, how is your relationship with the military?

[Aquino] Oh, I think it's really excellent, and, in fact, I don't know if the people are aware that it is only under my administration where we have a selection process where the different criteria are quantified. In the past, sure, there were all of this criteria, but the people who were up for promotion were not satisfied as this has not been done as objectively as possible. But now, under the process which I had directed certain officers to study and to contribute, I think where somebody is not chosen then it can be explained to him why others got higher grades and this is something that they can work on themselves. Eighty percent of this selection process is purely objective and you can say only 20 percent would be subjective on the part of the Board of Generals. And I'm just going back to the Abadia appointment, I read in one newspaper that some politicking was being talked about and that supposedly my brother, Congressman Peping Cojuangco, and Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos had pressured me or had influenced me to choose General Abadia. Well, in fact, I asked my brother Peping: Do you know General Abadia, and he said, no, I don't know him. If at all, maybe I just know him because of what I have read about him or seen on television. But he said that he would know General Flores better because General Flores is from Tarlac. And if I was just interested in politicking, maybe I would have chosen somebody from my own home province. But, I really believed that it was very important that we chose the best among those qualified. [passage omitted]

[Rodriguez] As controversial as the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff appointment is the appointment of his elder brother Major General Loven Abadia as the Air Force chief. How do you justify his appointment?

[Aquino] Well again, let me tell you the background to this. General Protacio, who was the outgoing CG [Commanding General] of the PAF [Philippine Air Force],

presented me with a list of the possible successors and one of them was Loven Abadia. And so, I had again interviewed all of these possible CG's, and again I believe that Loven Abadia was the best qualified. Also, he was second to the most senior. I interviewed the most senior but he was not really that all interested, and I think his talents really are better at the Philippine Embassy in Washington in where he is of enormous help there. This is General Castro who is also one of the nominees. [passage omitted]

[Pamintuan] Ma'am we can shift from two controversial appointments to yet another one, the one in the Comelec [Commission on Elections] since you said you wanted General Abadia to be neutral in the coming elections, do you think that the Comelec will be neutral under Christian Monsod?

[Aquino] Oh yes. Definitely so. I have the highest respect in regard not only for his being neutral but for his being very competent. And, in fact, I will again nominate Chris Monsod as chairman of the Comelec, and in addition to that nomination, I am also submitting to the Commission of Appointments the name of Regalado Maambong who is presently a judge and who was with the Consitutional Commission and who was also a member of the Assembly, a KBL [New Society Movement] at the time. So, I believe that the entry or hopefully the confirmation of Regalado Maambong will answer the concerns of the opposition that he would certainly be very accessible to the members of the opposition.

[Pamintuan] Is Commissioner Maambong a nominee of an opposition personality?

[Aquino] Well actually, since he is presently a judge, he was not among those recommended by the vice president. But some others have recommended him to me, and I called for him and I interviewed him and he was very open, in fact, with telling me that, again, for my information that certainly he was with the opposition. And, in fact, he believes the reason that he was appointed to the Constitutional Commission was in effect to represent the opposition. But, I believe that with his experience, since he himself had been elected before and in the Constitutional Commission, he actively participated in the deliberation with regard to the Comelec and also with regard to elections, I feel that he will be able to contribute greatly not only to the neutrality but to the effectivity of the Comelec.

[Rodriguez] Ma'am, speaking of the 1992 elections, Metro Manila Mayors' League filed a resolution urging you to run and expressing their support for your candidacy despite the fact that you have repeatedly said that you won't run. What will compel you to run in the 1992 elections?

[Aquino] I can't really think of anything that will compel me to run. But as in the same report that you are talking about, I understand that they just wanted me to tell them who my candidate will be and I can't say they were really pressing for my candidacy. I guess, it's just, you know, to be polite or to make me feel good. But as a second point, I will be talking to them and asking them who they believe will be best for our country.

[Rodriguez] Is your decision not to run final and irrevocable? [laughter]

[Aquino] I don't know if mine was final or irrevocable. It can be. At any rate, it's getting to be so repetitious for me to keep on saying that I will not run because my critics will again accuse me of professing too much and you know what that means. [passage omitted]

[Pamintuan] Going back to your candidates, Mrs. President. Do you already have a set [words indistinct]? Does a candidate has to be young and dynamic or to be some politician?

[Aquino] Let's put it another way. Of course, what I am looking for in my successor or what I would hope my successor would be, first of all, would be the firm commitment to our democracy. Secondly, he is somebody that believes in people empowerment, so that what I have started under my administration will hopefully be continued by my successor because we have seen that where we have empowered the people and where we have given them a greater say, especially where their very lives are concerned, it has really led to tremendous improvement for them. So, I hope those two, of course, I would like him to be or her to be honest and competent and somebody who can really identify with our people.

[Pamintuan] So, you will announce it on your birthday?

[Aquino] That's what I'm thinking of. Because as was reported to me, the earliest that conventions can be held will be on December 28. So, I think it would be too premature for me to be announcing my candidates before that time. [passage omitted]

[Pamintuan] Secretary Paderanga told us that you already have concrete plan to take advantage of opportunities which are now available after the Gulf war. Can we have a [words indistinct]?

[Aquino] First of all, as you know, we have presented an economic stabilization program and this was based primarily on reducing the public sector deficit. And I am very glad to report that at least for the first quarter of 1991 where we have projected a deficit of around P13 billion [Philippine pesos], instead, we posted a surplus of P2 billion. So, this has led to the lowering of interest rates which as you know is very important, especially for our small business entrepreneurs that money can be made available to them at the lowest possible rate. And, as you know, it is also good that the exchange rate has stabilized. In fact, I understand that the black market is even lower than the prevailing exchange rate in our banks. What we have to do is to increase and encourage more exports. There is of course quite an imbalance insofar as our imports and exports are concerned. We really have to work harder in order to gain more entries into the foreign markets. And one way of doing this is

getting our private sector to relate directly with their counterparts in other countries. We are hoping that we will get higher qoutas, especially where our garment industries are concerned. What is important also is for continued political stability, so that the tourism industry will also benefit from this. I am glad to report also that because of the end of the Gulf war, our tourism industry is much better now. It was really terrible in January and February and even our national airlines was losing heavily because we were no longer flying to the Middle East. But now, things are looking that much brighter; and what is important is as Secretary Paderanga has pointed out to us, we have to ensure that we continue with our economic stabilization program and that is to make sure that we have the necessary revenue generating measures which hopefully Congress will pass, so that we can do away with the nine percent import levy. As you know, the nine percent import levy had to be resorted to in order to cut down on the public sector deficit. But it is a very temporary measure and I am hoping that Congress will pass the new tax measures or the new revenue generating measures, so that we can do away or at least reduce as substantially the nine percent import levy. [passage omitted]

[Rodriguez] Ma'am, the elections whether synchronized or desynchronized will cost us considerable sum of money from the government. Can you still afford to shoulder the cost of holding public consultation on the bases.

[Aquino] Insofar as the bases consultations are concerned, it's basically an information guide and anyway, not only me but the Cabinet members and other government agencies that are already in place in the different provinces and cities, they could do this in addition to their task. It is important and it is our obligation, in fact, to inform the people about what the treaty is all about if indeed we will have a treaty signed. It is certainly necessary in fact, our people will want to know what this treaty is because it will affect their lives.

[Zulueta] But can we say that the government, the executive, will campaign for the ratification?

[Aquino] Oh, definitely so. Because, I mean, we will not be signing a treaty if we do not believe in that treaty. So, I would of course be appealing to the senators to ratify the treaty but in addition to that, I think it is incumbent upon us, we in the executive branch, to inform the Filipino people about the provisions in this treaty.

[Pamintuan] How do you regard your relationship now with the legislature?

[Aquino] I think it's gone very well. It has improved a lot in the sense that I have had more meetings with them and the fact that, well, Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos came from Congress, also help in that he continues of course to have his friends there as well. And I also have my own friends in Congress and I have asked my brother Peping and Speaker Mitra to help us in this endeavor.

[Pamintuan] Do you think the fact that some of them are hoping for your endorsement is helping you in some ways?

[Aquino] Well, I hope so. Anyway, I think what we are all looking for is that our country's economy improve and the lives of our people are certainly better because of more and greater unity between the executive and legislative branches.

[Rodriguez] Will you be endorcing candidates for the senatorial and congressional elections across party lines?

[Aquino] I have not decided on that. What I am sure of at this moment is that I will endorse a presidential candidate. [passage omitted]

[Zulueta] How would you describe now your relationship with the opposition?

[Aquino] Well, I haven't really met with any of them.

[Zulueta] Do you feel that the opposition has the chance, has a good chance, of winning in the 1992 elections?

[Aquino] Well, that really depends of course on the Filipino people. And it also depends a lot on how the economy is faring around election time. As you know, if the people are experiencing a better a kind of life then they will be kindly disposed to the administration candidates. And if not, I guess they will look to other parties.

[Pamintuan] You are not definitely running next year. How do you foresee your role of this government after June 1992. Will you take an active role like Richard Nixon and other heads of state.

[Aquino] Again, it all depends on who my successsor would be. If it is somebody that is friendly, maybe once in a while, if my health is upwards, certainly I will give it. But if it is somebody that I cannot relate with, then I think that's the end. But I am more concerned about playing an active role with the NGO's [nongovernmental units]. This is in order to further the Kabisig [partnership] projects. I would like to help the NGO's.

[Pamintuan] Do you have a concrete plan already after your term, like are you be visiting, have you committed to visit certain countries?

[Aquino] I would have invitations and in fact I have been invited to address the (ZONTA) International in Hong Kong in July, I think, of 1992. So, I told my staff it would be better if you inform them that my term ends June 30, 1992, and maybe I will not be considered anymore if they know that I am no longer president. Recently, I also received an invitation from a university in Connecticut and they wanted to award me with an honorary degree. And I said, I don't think I will be visiting the United States before my term ends. And so, they said, oh even after your presidency we are offering this to you. So, I think it will only then, I will have to, of course I realize only too well that when one is no longer president, the invitations will no longer be as many. [passage omitted]

[Zulueta] If the next president were from the opposition, will you play the role of a fiscalizer [as heard] outside of government?

[Aquino] I don't know if that is for me. It would be the elected members of Congress who would best be critical because I would be a private citizen and I think I could best serve really, as I said, by helping the NGO's. And also I have to finish writing my book. I think I would like to concentrate on that, so that I would at least be able to express and put down very clearly how I viewed not only my presidency but I would like to include the period when Ninoy was a political prisoner and when we were living in exile. [passage omitted] Thank you very Amy, Marcia, and Lito and *please tell your colleagues that if they want this system, we can do this again. Maybe we could invite the other officers of the Malacanang Press Corps next time.?*

[Pamintuan] Thank you also, Mrs. President.

Muslim Bandits Free French Priest

HK2604101291 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0930 GMT 26 Apr 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Text] Father Yves Caroff, a French priest kidnapped in Cotabato City last month, has been released from the hands of Muslim bandits. In a report received in Camp Aguinaldo, Father Caroff has been released at about 1530 [0730 GMT], but the detailsc of the release were not known, whether he was really released or was rescued by military authorities. Father Caroff is now in the custody of Bishop Smith.

LDP Fails To Agree on Standard Bearer

HK2504145491 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 25 Apr 91 p 7

[By Manny Mogato with Johanna Son]

[Text] Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, the two main contenders in the ruling coalition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] party nomination for the presidential elections next year, failed to reach a consensus on how the party's standard bearer would be selected.

Ramos and Mitra met with other LDP leaders at the house of Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco in Makati Tuesday night to discuss the entry of the defense chief into the ruling coalition party and the procedures and rules in the nomination for the party's official candidate. Senator Neptali Gonzales, LDP president, arranged the meeting.

Discussions on the procedures and rules in the nomination of the party's standard bearer bogged down partly due to the absence of Paul Aquino, the former head of the Labas ng Bansa (Labas) [Outside the Country] party and the chairman of the party's rules committee. He is reportedly out of the country.

But reliable sources who attended the meeting said the debate was focused on the manner of the selection procedures and the composition of the votes from both the congressmen and the local officials.

The pro-Mitra group wanted the LDP national leaders to decide the party's official candidate during a national convention late this year but the pro-Ramos group favored a regional selection starting with the national capital region convention on Saturday.

Ramos and other cabinet members joining the LDP are expected to be formally accepted as party members in the convention Saturday.

In a related development, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) on Tuesday night decided to scrap regional "primaries" where voting would be held for its standard bearer, thus leaving the final party choice to its December convention.

In a statement, Gonzales said the main reason for foregoing the regional primaries was legal, because the process could violate the election code's provisions on political conventions and campaigning.

Gonzales told reporters that the primaries could be de facto conventions held before the legal time frame (beginning December 26) and campaigning outside the legal period.

Instead, he said, the LDP would hold regional assemblies every weekend beginning May 15, where all aspirants for elective offices would be presented to party members.

At these assemblies, aspirants for president, vice president, Congress and local posts may announce that they are seeking the LDP nomination.

Present at the meeting were Gonzales, Ramos, Mitra, Rep. Jose Cojuangco, Jr., LDP secretary-general, and Lupita Kashiwahara, who took notes.

The meeting was held at the Makati residence of Cojuangco, the President's younger brother.

Gonzales said that Paul Aqino, Mrs. Aquino's brother-in-law would be tapped by the party in finalizing the rules of selection for the standard bearer because of his track record in managing the Administration's 1986-1988 elections.

Thailand

Prime Minister Speaks on Government Priorities

BK2604005391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Apr 91 p 4

["Excerpts" of speech by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand on 25 April]

[Text] I have come here to share my thoughts with you about political developments in Thailand as I see them, focusing in particular on the policies and priorities of this Interim Government. There is no doubt that we have a very high-calibre foreign press corps which is well attuned to the latest news in Thailand. Certainly, how those abroad perceive the events that transpire in Thailand depend, to a considerable extent, on your reporting and perspective.

It has never been my expectation to stand here and speak before you in this capacity. I believe that my appointment as Prime Minister will indeed be recorded as one of the greatest accidents of history. And, indeed, life has changed considerably for me. Even my neighbours have also felt the side-effects of the change. Being in the limelight and making headlines are something which I have always sought to avoid. When I accepted the appointment, I was well aware that it would be rough going ahead. The initial warm praises and accolades at the beginning could, as it has already started to, turn gradually into criticism. So it is fair to say that I came in having no illusions about holding this high public office.

The political change that took place in Thailand on February 23, 1991 caught most of us by surprise, both within and outside the country. Many abroad viewed what happened with anxiety and concern. But developments since then have, I believe, allayed some of the concern and, to a substantial degree, dispelled doubts about which direction Thailand is heading.

Pledges and promises that were made have been kept. So I would venture to say that the event of February 23 is by no means a regression back to the 1960's or 1970's. I would thus hope you will be looking at the policies and actions we will be pursuing; which way we are going politically and economically.

To be frank, I really do not see the interests of our friends abroad being materially or significantly affected by the political change. Thailand remains an open society and we are continuing, with even greater vigour and speed, to pursue the kind of liberal economic policies conducive to foreign trade and investment.

On the other hand, I am fully aware of the genuine concern aroused by the imposition of martial law and limitation on the rights of political gatherings. Given the nature of the political change, obviously some strict measures had to be taken at the early stage to keep law and order. By that I am not attempting to make excuses; I am just stating a fact.

You may recall that when I took office, I stated very cleary that there is no justification for keeping martial law a day longer than is necessary. Now that the situation is returned to normalcy, we will do away with martial law very soon.

In the final analysis, it all boils down to the question of the values and attitudes of the people who are the electorate. I believe that the state of politics mirror the people. We talk about promoting greater political awareness of the people. But that is easier said than done. It is more than just educating the people on their rights and obligation as citizens in a democracy. What is important is that we have to stick with the system of holding elections, at regular intervals.

If we can do this, I would not be surprised if two or three more elections down the road we shall not only see a new crop of more competent and qualified politicians come to the fore, but also a stronger sense of political participation and consciousness on the part of the people. The people will realise that it is in their power to choose between good and bad politicians.

As noted earlier, a major concern of this Government is promoting continued economic growth and stability. We must ensure that the economy, after so many years of robust economic growth, does not falter. Many of the people I have chosen as Cabinet ministers are known for their talents and skills as economic managers. It is my hope that they will be able to bring their proven ability to bear upon the management of the Thai economy.

We share the same economic philosophies—promoting the openness and competitiveness of the economy through deregulation and liberalisation while maintaining fiscal and monetary discipline. These are the kinds of policies which, I am convinced, will serve to strengthen Thailand's economic position in the increasingly competitive environment of the global economy.

We all accept the reality that this Government is an interim one. My colleagues and I are not career politicians and, I might even add, have no intention whatsoever to hold on to our office. We are politicians by chance in a temporary government.

But policy-wise, we hope to be able to make some small lasting contributions. Our main tasks are, of course, to ensure the efficient running of the Government and to maintain the country along the path of steady, stable and balanced economic growth during the current transitional period. By no means do we expect to do everything. The only legacy we aspire for this Government is to set the directions and lay the basis which would allow the next government to administer the country on a firm footing. And because we are not in the business of running for another term of office, I believe that we are in a position to push for the kind of decisive policies, measures and reforms which are normally more difficult under a more politicised atmosphere. Specifically, I am talking about such matters as decentralising and streamlining the government bureaucracy, reforming outdated laws and regulations and bringing about further deregulation and liberalisation of the economy.

At the same time, precisely because we are an appointed and not an elected Government we must take great pains to avoid giving the impression that we are beyond accountability and abusing power. That is why I have constantly stressed the need for this Government to be transparent and accessible.

I know that uppermost in the minds of all of you is the question of the return to democracy. So far, if you look at the concrete steps taken—the appointment of a civilian-led Cabinet, the establishment of a National Legislative Assembly, the appointment of the Constitution Drafting Committee and the impending lifting of martial law in the first week of May—all of which point to the direction of a speedy restoration of the democratic form of government. Such tangible progess, I believe, reflects the sincere intentions of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] to hand power back to the people as soon as possible.

In my opinion, the NPKC feels a strong moral obligation to live up to the expectations of the people. All of you are well aware of the general timeframe that has been set, but we all hope that we can quicken the pace and perhaps give the Thai people a "New Year's Gift" by the end of this year or at the very beginning of next year—even though we, as a Government, have no role or direct responsibility in the drafting of the permanent Constitution.

Naturally, much will depend on the drafting of the Constitution and its subsequent approval by the National Legislative Assembly. Suggestions and proposals abound, all proposing a representative form of government and the desire to find cures for vote-buying and undesirable politics. I do not think there is such a thing as a perfect or fool-proof constitution nor can there ever be one. We need in the long run to establish a pattern of personal and group behaviour which demands participation in civic affairs. We also need to plug loopholes and enforce existing laws and seek to break the vicious cycle of the patronage system between unscrupulous politicians, government officials and business interests which lie at the source of the problem.

Our economic success would come to naught if it enriches only the minority. We therefore want to pursue an economic policy that has a human face to it, meaning that the emphasis must be improving the quality of life and welfare of the people and achieving a high growth rate, per se. Economic growth must result in a narrowing and not a widening of the income gap. Developemnt and industrialisation must be decentralised to rural areas to provide jobs for our growing work-force, a large number of whom will be shifting from the agricultural to the industrial sector. We shall seek to pursue an economic development strategy that sustains and nurtures the environment and ecological balance. The scourge of drug addiction and the spread of AIDS are problems that we can no longer afford to ignore. We have to mobilise all efforts to tackle them and not just pay lip service.

Compared to the previous government, this administration has perhaps been seen as taking a lower profile on matters of foreign policy. This, however, does not signal a break with past policies. Our approach and style may be different but, basically, we will continue with the main thrust of the policy of turning "battlefields into marketplaces," as seen in the larger context of bringing peace and stability throughout the whole of Southeast Asia. We are intensifying our efforts to forge further links with our neighbours. In so doing, we believe that Thailand has a role to play in bridging the gap between ASEAN and the rest of Southeast Asia.

ASEAN will remain the anchor of Thailand's foreign policy. It is the close cooperation among ASEAN countries that has enabled us to play a larger and more constructive role in regional and global affairs. We will be working closely with our ASEAN partners in strengthening our cooperation in economic and technical fields as well as moving towards some degree of integration so as to make the ASEAN market more meaningful and ASEAN a joint area for investment.

Indeed, the growth of the Thai economy now really depends considerably upon the expansion of overseas markets. We are undeniably an export-oriented economy. As a consequence of this, Thailand and ASEAN must ensure that we maintain an outward-looking policy of promoting healthy economic and commercial relations with the key world centres of trade and economic activity such as the United States, the European Community and Japan. We will have to widen our horizons to expand our economic opportunities.

I have attempted to give you an overview of our policies and direction—the agenda of this Government. I have no illusions about accomplishing everything we seek to do within the limited timeframe that we have. At the very least, we would like to see the country moving on the right track so that there could be a speedy return to democracy in Thailand. We appreciate the concern expressed in foreign circles. But I believe that we, meaning the Thai people, have enough confidence to sort things out by ourselves, and to know which direction we are and should be heading. It is the Thai people who must decide and ultimately judge as well.

I am fully aware of the fact that our government is not an elected one. It is, therefore, all the more imperative that we need to justify our own "legitimacy". We can achieve this not by consciously seeking popularity but by striving with our deeds to gain acceptance and endorsement of the people in general.

Without these two essential elements, no government—whatever its accomplishments—can be truly proud of its own existence.

Holds News Conference

BK2604011391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said last night he could not subscribe to the idea that the military's role in politics would be permanent, but he admitted the military traditionally played a critical role in Thai history.

He said the best form of government that would effectively respond to the aspirations of the people was an elected civilian government.

He also implied that he would definitely refuse to accept premiership again if the general elections could not be held within the timeframe of the interim constitution.

In a question-and-answer session following a keynote speech at a dinner organised by the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, the Prime Minister, while admitting he had been installed by the military, said the military role should not be institutionalised in the new Constitution.

He said that as a Thai citizen he personally would not like to see the military's role in Thailand institutionalised.

"I do not believe that it is wise nor is it in the interest of the military in the long run that a constitutional role be given to them," he said.

Mr Anan, who jokingly said that he was constantly reminded that he had become Prime Minister because of the military, said the military traditionally played a critical role in the country's history.

While the military influence would continue, the country's democratic process had to be developed gradually, he said.

"Yes, it may last another five years, yes it may last another 20 years, yes, it may last another 50 years.

"But I think that social history all over the world has proved that the best method and the best form of government which can respond effectively to the aspiration and the wish of the people has to be a civilian, elected government," he said.

Mr Anan said the military also shared this viewpoint.

But he said this could be acheived if political development was nurtured with impatience.

"If it is allowed to move at the right speed in the right direction, gaining more and more public acceptance, the conclusion is inevitable," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the February 23 military takeover was different from past coups in that for the first time the interim constitution specified a timeframe for the drafting of the permanent constitution and the holding of elections.

Mr Anan said his apppointments as premier was also "a far cry from the 1960s" when he had been "accused of being communist."

The National Legislative Assembly and the military wanted the Constitution to be completed and elections held within the course of this year. "It would serve our interests if the whole thing is done by the end of the year," he said.

Asked if he would remain prime minister if elections were not held within the timeframe stated in the interim constitution, Mr Anan said:

"If for any reason, whatsoever, the constitution cannot be completed, nor could the elections be held within four months after next January, my position is that the pledge that has been given has been broken.

"And my personal stance is that I am not prepared to be involved once again in the breaking of pleges."

Earlier in his address, he said he had no illusion that his administration could accomplish everything it sought to do within the limited timeframe it had.

"At the very least, we would like to see the country moving on the right track so that there could be a speedy return to democracy in Thailand," he said, adding that he hoped a democratic government could be restored by the end of this year or beginning of next year as a New Year's gift" to the Thai people.

He said he didn't think the February 23 military takeover was a regression back to the 1960s or 1970s.

Citing a number of concrete steps taken, Mr Anan said he believed in the sincere intentions of the NPKC to hand power back to the people as soon as possible.

Discusses U.S. Trade Dispute

BK2504161691 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1400 GMT 25 Apr 91

["Excerpts" from question and answer session following speech by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand—live in English with superimposed translation in Thai.]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Weddel] This is Paul Weddel of UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL. What will the Thai Government do in the short term to solve trade problems vis-a-vis the United States?

[Anan] I want to speak about my basic belief first. I do not believe in the U.S. style or method in the effort to solve its trade problems with other countries. I disagree with the U.S. attitude. I am prepared to say that our behavior or our belief in the past was correct in every instance. I believe in compromise and in negotiations to solve economic problems. There must be political choices for solving economic problems. I believe that in the past two or three years, Thailand has tried very hard to solve the problems of concern to our friend, the United States, with regard to trade disputes. There are issues with which we cannot comply.

In the past two or three weeks, I have issued clear instructions and consulted with the Foreign Ministry, the foreign minister, and the commerce minister to the effect that we will give in on some issues that we believe we can explain to the Thai people and on issues that we think are reasonable requests. Until we reach this point, and it happens that the next morning our good friend, the United States, decides to designate us a priority foreign country, or PFC, I or this government cannot do anything to stop the U.S. action because it would be a

unilateral decision on the part of the United States that would not be accepted by the world community. I will let our good friend decide for itself. Whatever it decides tomorrow, we will accept that judgment. That was the prime minister's answer, which says although he disagrees with the U.S. method, if a good friend like the United States decides to do it, he will accept it. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Does the unilateral action that you cited by the United States risk irreparable damage to the bilateral relationship as some have said, and if the United States were to cite Thailand tomorrow, as many predict, what are the concrete fallout steps that [words indistinct]

[Anan] The question deals with Section 301 again. If the United States designates Thailand a black sheep in trade, it does not mean that bilateral relations should be destroyed. But the short-term relationship between the Thai and American people will definitely be affected. So, it will take some time to adjust such feelings. And we are prepared to accept the unilateral U.S. decision. And we will intensify our efforts to conduct talks and find solutions together. We still have about six to seven months before the United States will investigate us. We will try by all means to solve the problem. [passage omitted]

Ministers Appeal to U.S. on Trade Issues

BK2604013191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on has written to United States Trade Representative (USTR) Carla Hills to defend Thailand's negotiating position in the three-day trade talks in Amsterdam that ended on Wednesday without progress.

In the letter, which was sent out yesterday, Amaret told Washington that the United States should take careful and thorough consideration before initiating any trade action against Thailand, said a source who has seen the document.

The source quoted Amaret as saying that his ministry and the entire government were prepared to accept the decision of the USTR should it announce by its deadline (noon Saturday Bangkok time) to designate Thailand as foreign country on its priority watch list.

At the same time, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin called on the United States to end the emotionalism of the current bilateral talks on intellectual property rights protection and focus on the substance of the issues.

Asa told reporters after delivering his first public address at an annual meeting of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce yesterday that it was illogical to force Thailand to give more concessions because of Washington's internal problems.

"The Thai government has been under growing pressure from various interest groups to resist US demands as well," he added.

In the letter, minister Amaret outlined which of the US demands calling for better intellectual property right protection were acceptable to Thailand and which were not, according to the source.

He also explained Thailand's constraints, particularly on a commitment that the revised copyright law and the amended patent act had to be passed by the National Assembly by July 31, 1991 and Oct 1, 1991, respectively.

The minister also told Washington that although the National Assembly members had been hand-picked by the military, the members of the Assembly had their own dignity and their own ideas which the administrative branch had to respect.

The government, Amaret stated in the letter, could not interfere with legislative affairs. Any attempt to intervene, he said, might even backfire and result in the rejection of the laws.

The Cabinet-appointed committee on intellectual property rights, chaired by Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena of the Commerce Ministry, has agreed to extend the patent protection to pharmaceuticals, their active ingredients, farm machinery, biotechnological inventions, food and beverages for 20 years instead of 15 years as is the case now.

Bangkok has also given assurances to Washington that it would crack down on counterfeit products and enforce the copyright law to make adequate and effective protection to US audio and video products.

Amaret told Washington in the letter that despite Thailand's attempts to meet the US demands, the US has continued to step up pressure and demanded more concessions which are against national interests.

The US wanted the patent act to take retroactive effect so that it can protect all the on-patent drugs currently applying for registration in producing countries.

Washington also demanded that the revised patent act protect plant and animal varieties and microorganisms, which Thailand rejected because there was no internationally-agreed basis to negotiate on these issues.

Editorial Condemns U.S. 'Arm-Twisting' on Trade

BK2604040191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Apr 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Stop Pushing Thailand"]

[Text] In the wake of the breakdown of Thai-US trade talks in Amsterdam, Washington will likely step up pressure on Thailand by designating it a "priority foreign country" [PFC] on the watch list of the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). Countries on the PFC watch list may face trade retaliatory action under the

Special 301 section of the US Omnibus Trade Act if the USTR rules that these countries have hurt American economic interests by failing to adequately protect American intellectual property rights.

Washington's heavy-handed tactics are indefensible. The threat to punish Thailand—which is still rhetorically referred to as "a friend and ally of the US" in various official US pronouncements—is disappointing since Bangkok has steadily improved protection of various intellectual property rights and, more importantly, actively participated in Gatt's Uruguay Round of talks to liberalize international trade and strengthen multilateral means of countering trade protectionism.

The retaliatory measures under the Special 301 section fall in a grey area of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Under GATT, unilateral trade retaliation against unfair trade practices may be justifiable under special circumstances, but discriminatory measures are not.

By resorting to unilateralism in the trade dispute with Thailand, Washington undermines its own credibility in its claim to support Gatt's multilateral approach to reforming world trade.

Washington's double standard is further highlighted by the increased US subsidy to American rice farmers as a time when US officials everywhere are preaching the gospel of free trade and denouncing alleged unfair trade practices in poor developing countries, including Thailand.

What can Bangkok do when American exporters dump their highly-subsidized rice on foreign markets and force Thai exporters out of business? Bangkok did lodge a protest with the US Embassy here. Some student groups did put the US on their "priority hate" list. But not much else. The US rice subsidy programme continues and will probably increase in scope because of the powerful rice lobby in Congress.

Under the Special 301 section, the USTR can recommend Washington to take retaliatory action without waiting for petitions from the American private sector as would be the case in the regular 301 provision. By punishing or at least threatening to punish Thailand and a few others, Washington is apparently trying to persuade Congress and American business leaders that it is actually "doing something" to defend their economic interest overseas.

This in turn may convince them to support the Bush administration's request for a two-year extension of the President's trade negotiating power. The Bush administration wants the power to facilitate the US negotiations for a free trade agreement with Mexico and to strengthen the US position in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

In other words, the Bush administration is prepared to make Thailand a sacrificial lamb to appease Congress for political expediency. Therefore all the US pronouncements about Thailand being a dear "friend" and valuable "ally" of the US have to be taken with a grain of salt. This should make Thai government and military leaders more wary of President Bush's so-called "new world order" after the Gulf crisis, and of all US-led arrangements in maintaining security and promoting economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

In this "new world order" the United States apparently has only overseas economic interests (like oil in the Persian Gulf) to care about. All the friends and allies of the US are dispensable as far as Washington is concerned.

The bitter experience with the USTR should make Thailand wiser and stop looking towards the US as a generous "super-friend" or a committed "super-ally".

The USTR was so self-centered that its negotiators have demanded that Bangkok complete patent and copyright legislation within this year. But this is impossible because the Anan administration has no control of the National Assembly, a fact that the USTR may not yet see or understand.

The Anan administration is barely two months old and is apparently still reviewing the intellectual property situation and adjusting Thailand's position on this highly complex issue. Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on who served on the same post in the toppled Chatchai administration, serves as a key link between the past and the present.

Minister Amaret's position seems to be that Thailand is doing the best it can under existing constraints. He is right.

But he can do more by making clear what his ministry has been doing, especially with regard to intellectual property legislation. The Thai public has the right to know what is being given away and in exchange for what. So far the trade negotiations with the US and the Thai decision-making process on this issue have been shrouded in mystery.

More and more people are interested in this controversy and want to know what is going on. The USTR's attempt to bully Thailand at this time is counter-productive, as it will only stir up anti-American sentiments.

A better approach is to give Thailand some more time to make gradual adjustment. Thailand has come to a point where it will improve protection of select intellectual property rights on its own, for its own good. But arm-twisting Thailand now just to satisfy Washington's political whims will not make Thailand move faster.

Foreign Minister on Hun Sen Trip, Trade Dispute

BK2504135591 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Hun Sen, prime minister of the Heng Samrin regime, will arrive in Thailand tomorrow prior to the

upcoming peace talks with the other three Khmer factions next month. Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin told reporters this morning that Hun Sen will arrive in Thailand tomorrow. He is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. Thailand will continue to act only as a coordinator for the efforts to seek a settlement among the four Khmer factions. Asa Sarasin said Thailand has asked for sympathy from the world community, especially on its burden of helping Cambodian refugees. Although the United Nations border relief operation will reduce its assistance for the refugees, Thailand will continue to shoulder the burden. The upcoming Jakarta peace talks among the four Khmer factions is the best method to solve the problem.

Commenting on the possibility that the United States will place Thailand on the U.S. Priority Foreign Country watchlist, Asa said that we have to accept this, because Thailand must abide by international norms. In any event, we must look for new markets.

Anan To 'Persuade' Cambodians To Attend Talks

BK2604013091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Apr 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will today meet leaders of the three Cambodian factions to persuade them to attend the Jakarta peace talks with their Phnom Penh counterpart in the middle of next month.

Anan said he also expected to see Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen tomorrow when he would probably convey a similar message to him.

Today will be the first time since his ascension to the leadership will Anan meet the leaders of the warring Cambodian factions. [sentence as published]

His administration's stated policy is for Bangkok to maintain support for the peace efforts but at a much lower profile than that of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan's administration.

Anan said he would also try to convince all four Cambodian factions to accept and implement the peace framework worked out by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

He did not provide any other details on Bangkok's peace initiative.

A high-ranking Cambodian resistance member last night confirmed that the meeting between the three resistance leaders and the Thai premier would take place.

The resistance member, who asked not to be identified, said Prince Norodom Ranariddh would represent the FUNCINPEC [Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] movement which is loyal to former Monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Khieu Samphan would represent the Khmer Rouge while former premier Son Sann would represent the smaller pro-West Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) at the meeting.

The resistance official said he could not confirm reports that Hun Sen would be in Bangkok to see Anan.

The Phnom Penh premier was earlier reported to be in Tokyo for medical treatment partly sponsored by the Japanese Government. During his stay in Tokyo, the Japanese Government discussed the Cambodian problem with Hun Sen. Japan's Prime Minister Kaifu plans to meet the resistance leaders when he is in Bangkok on April 28 as a follow-up to the Tokyo mediation talks.

The official confirmed that the Japanese had extended an invitation to the leader of his faction to participate in a meeting with Kaifu. He said the leader of his faction had accepted the invitation but added that he could not speak for the other two factions.

The other two factions could not be reached for comment last night.

The resistance member also said that his faction was ready to attend the Jakarta peace talks with the other side.

He said the three leaders had publicly accepted the call by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Indonesian and French Governments for a voluntary ceasefire by the warring Cambodian factions from May 1.

"In principle, we certainly wish to see a ceasefire, as soon as possible, to end the suffering of the Cambodian people," he said.

"But the thing is the content and the proceedings concerning the ceasefire. We share the common stand that the draft peace plan worked out by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is the best framework to restore peace in Cambodia and enable the country to start its long-delayed economic reconstruction."

He said the resistance hoped that Vietnam, which is the main backer of the Phnom Penh administration, and the Cambodian regime would accept the peace plan agreed to by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Editorial Supports Talks With SRV on Cambodia

BK2504130191 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 25 Apr 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Solution to the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] After more than 10 years of fighting, there is now hope now that the long conflict may find an end and that peace will return to Cambodia.

Efforts have been made to implement the UN peace plan drafted late last year by the UN Security Council permanent members, with Indonesia and France playing a

leading role in organizing international conferences as well as meetings among the Khmer factions.

Only one step under the plan has been achieved so far, and that is the establishment of the Supreme National Council [SNC] comprising representatives from the four factions, namely the Phnom Penh regime, the Sihanoukists, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and the Khmer Rouge. Anyway, it took a long time for the warring factions to agree upon the SNC setup, especially concerning the selection of its chairman and vice chairman.

Under the UN peace plan, the SNC is the supreme body representing Cambodia. Meanwhile, the United Nations will take charge of administration and arrange the elections. But the UN role will be taken over once an elected government of Cambodia is formed after the elections. The National Security Council will remain as a symbol of Cambodian unity.

A stumbling block for the UN provisional administration in Cambodia comes from a requirement for demobilization and cease-fire by all factions to create an atmosphere conducive for elections. The Phnom Penh government claimed that the Khmer Rouge might take the opportunity of a cease-fire to stage a return to power and restore its regime of genocide which ruled Cambodia for a short period some 10 years ago.

On efforts to achieve a cease-fire in Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand should play a vital role because the two countries used to be staunch supporters of the warring parties in Cambodia, with Vietnam backing the Phnom Penh government and Thailand backing the resistance forces from the very beginning. It cannot be denied that all military supplies provided to all factions in Cambodia were channeled through either Vietnam or Thailand for one side or the other.

The planned visit to Thailand by Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi for talks with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will hopefully contribute to achieving a cease-fire in Cambodia, especially as the Cambodian problem is slated as a major topic for their discussion.

We fully support the meeting between the two leaders.

Joint Border Committee With Burma Ends Session

New Border Pass To Open

BK2504144991 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] First Army Region commander Lieutenant General San Siphen reported yesterday on the fifth regional level meeting of the Joint Thai-Burmese Border Committee at the 9th Infantry Division in Kanchaburi Province. He said Burma has accepted the Thai proposal to withdraw Burmese soldiers who have crossed into Thai territory. They have also agreed to open a border crossing point at Three Border Pass.

The meeting, which began on 23 April, concluded yesterday. The joint agreement was cosigned by Lt. Gen. San and Major General Maung Aye, the Burmese Eastern Military Command commander.

According to San, the atmosphere of the meeting was friendly, and Burma responded very well to the Thai proposals. To sum up the joint agreement, Thailand has asked Burma to withdraw its forces, which have established their base inside Thai territory in Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son Province since April. This Burmese force has caused local Thais to panic. The Burmese have agreed to check the matter and consider the Thai proposal to withdraw soldiers from both sides to at least five kms from present border bases. Thailand and Burma have also agreed to open a border crossing point at Three Pagoda Pass to facilitate greater cooperation and to discourage problems along the border.

Envoy on Bilateral Ties

BK2504165891 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Thai ambassador to Burma Suraphong Posayanon says Thai-Burmese relations are proceeding well and Thailand has been trying to maintain these good relations in compliance with the foreign policy toward Burma and Laos as outlined by the government to the National Assembly. The ambassador said this after the fifth regional-level meeting of the Joint Thai-Burmese Border Committee at the 9th Infantry Division building in Kanchanaburi Province yesterday.

Asked if projected U.S. economic sanctions against Burma will affect Thailand, the ambassador said Thailand will help Burma forge good relations with all countries, particularly the superpowers, and that Thailand will try to preserve good relations with the United States and refrain from interference in Burma's internal affairs.

Vietnam

Cambodia Cease-Fire Proposal 'Positive Step'

BK2504124991 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Apr 91

["Radio commentator's opinion"]

[Text] As reported early this week, the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN scretary general called on all Cambodian warring factions to observe a cease- fire starting 1 May to at least the end of the coming meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] scheduled to be held in mid-May in Jakarta, Indonesia. Here is our radio commentator's opinion:

The proposal by the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and the UN secretary general is one of goodwill which is expected to help speed up the overall political solution to the Cambodian issue.

At the present conjunction, while the three Khmer opposition factions, mainly the Khmer Rouge, are stepping up their military activities against civilians in Cambodia and while the settlement of the Cambodian issue is entering a decisive state, a cease-fire in Cambodia is imperative. It will create conditions for all sides to sit together to discuss the internal affairs of their country.

For over a month now, the State of Cambodia has been longing for a cease-fire and a new session of the SNC. The Phnom Penh government has expressed its readiness to respond to the new cease-fire proposal of the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference and the UN secretary general.

Vietnam highly appreciates the proposal, regarding [it] a positive step in order to create a favorable atmosphere in settlement of the Cambodian problem. Vietnam hopes that as from 1 May guns will fall silent in Cambodia and this temporary cease-fire will lead to a permanent cease-fire and peace may return to the Cambodian people for the sake of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, as pointed out by the Vietnamese daily NHAN DAN, in order to create favorable conditions for such a cease-fire and pave the way to end the civil war in Cambodia, all countries concerned should stop aiding all Cambodian sides and respond to the September 1989 proposal made by the Soviet Union and the United States and the proposal made in the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's statement of 28 February.

Further Reportage on Visit of Indian President

Vo Chi Cong Reception Speech

BK2604041591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Speech by President Vo Chi Cong at 24 April reception at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi for Indian delegation led by President Venkataraman—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Venkataraman, Indian and Vietnamese Friends:

On behalf of the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people, we heartily welcome President Venkataraman, Mrs. Venkataraman, and the distinguished Indian guests visiting Vietnam.

Today, in receiving President Venkataraman, we are not only welcoming the president of the great Republic of India but also an experienced soldier who fought for the independence and freedom of his country, a proficient high ranking leader, a great cultural activist, a well-known international activist, and a great friend of the Vietnamese people. Your visit brings to the Vietnamese people the intimate affection of the brotherly Indian people and is a new step in the traditional friendship between our two peoples.

Looking back over history, the Vietnamese and Indian people have long had cultural and ideological exchanges. Historic relics and monuments in Vietnam are priceless treasures of that close relationship. Our people have a bright friendship because we both love freedom and peace, respect morality, and are rich in altruism.

Our two people have united and passionately supported each other throughout the length of history and the struggle for national independence. Ho Chi Minh, Mahatma Ghandi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and three generations of Vietnamese and Indians have contributed to the great friendship between our two countries.

Today, we are again together in the national construction undertaking, in the battle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social advancement in the whole world.

Dear Mr. President, the world is changing rapidly. In the scientific, technological revolution, men have reached the peak of their creativeness with full vitality. That is the human intelligence gathered gradually from the dawn of civilization, and India is one of the cradles of a very ancient and most brilliant civilization.

Jawaharlal Nehru took the whole world by surprise in discovering the brilliance of the ancient Indian civilization and in the persistence of the national struggle for independence. Today's world is again discovering a new India which is strong, peaceful, and modern and yet still maintains its unique national characteristics and the noble morality which has been built over thousands of years of history.

The Vietnamese people are happy at the great achievements in the construction and defense of India's territorial integrity over more than 40 years.

India ranks 13th in the world in industrial production and has gradually solved difficult socioeconomic problems. Although facing greater challenges in the changing situation, we believe that the Indian people, with their steadfast, stable, and strongly creative spirit, will overcome any challenges and score many more great achievements.

The Vietnamese people highly value the foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship, cooperation, and nonalignment of the Republic of India and India's great contributions to the world. Vietnam welcomes and supports India's goodwill and efforts to improve relations with its neighboring countries and to build a South Asian region of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation. In the past 40 years, the Republic of India has been contributing greatly to peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia. India is the president of the International Committee for Implementation of Peaceful Agreements in Indochina. For those reasons, and with India's good reputation in the world and in the Nonaligned Movement, India certainly will have a deserving position in this region. India is making a positive and constructive contribution to a solution for the Cambodian issue.

Dear Mr. President, the Vietnamese people have been through many years of adverse fighting for independence and national unification. Today, there is no aspiration more pressing than living in peace and stability to build the country.

Since the Sixth Party Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, we have embarked on a comprehensive renovation policy and have scored a number of initial achievements. At present we are preparing for the Seventh Party Congress to perfect, replenish, and develop the renovation policy of the Sixth Party Congress and to put foward the main duties for the new era of the Vietnamese people.

We are persistent in our policy of peace, friendship, and extensive cooperation with other countries on the basis of mutual respect of sovereignty, equality, and mutual benefit. We are doing our best with related countries to find a peaceful solution to the Cambodia issue on the basis of respecting Cambodia's sovereignty and the UN Charter. We are tirelessly struggling with countries in the region to build a Southeast Asia of peace, friendship, and cooperation.

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Venkataraman, dear Indian and Vietnamese friends, we are happy with the constant development and good prospects for the brilliant relations between the brotherly people of Vietnam and India. Vietnam-India friendship and international unity are the priceless assets of our two peoples which we will heartily maintain and develop. The good result of your Vietnam visit, Mr. President, will be that friendship and cooperation between our two countries will develop more strongly.

On this occasion, may I express the deep gratitude of the Vietnamese people to you, to the Indian Government, and to the Indian people for strongly supporting the liberation, construction, and protection of the fatherland of the Vietnamese people.

We appreciate the affection of you, Mr. President, of the Indian Government and people for President Ho Chi Minh on his centenary birthday celebration. We deeply believe that the great Indian people with your and the Indian Government's leadership, will successfully build a united, modern, strong, and prosperous India.

With that belief, I suggest a toast: that the traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and India will ever strengthen and develop; to the brotherly Indian people happiness and prosperity; to the health of President and Mrs Venkataraman; to the health of Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh; and to the health of Indian and Vietnamese friends.

Talks With Vo Chi Cong

BK2504154991 Hanoi VNA in English 1412 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Talks were held here this morning between Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council of Vietnam, and R. Venkataraman, president of India, who is on an official friendship visit here .

President Vo Chi Cong said the visit of President R. Venkataraman is an important contribution to the development of the fine relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He reiterated the Vietnamese people's wish to further strengthen, together with the Indian people, the cooperative ties between Vietnam and India for the sake of peace, stability and cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region.

President R. Venkataraman congratulated the Vietnamese people on the achievements in the current renovation and expressed his confidence that the Vietnamese people will achieve new successes in the process of renovating their country.

The Indian president highly valued the external policy of peace, friendship and cooperation of Vietnam and its determination and goodwill to seek a political solution to the Cambodian question. He reaffirmed India's principled stance that any solution to the Cambodian question must be based on the respect for Cambodia's independence and sovereignty and the Cambodian people's right to decide their internal affairs without interference and opposition from outside.

President Vo Chi Cong and President R. Venkataraman expressed their satisfaction at the fine development of the Vietnam-India [word indistinct] relations and the determination of both countries to further develop the friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation. Both sides agreed that the promotion of their bilateral cooperation will be a positive contribution to peace, stability and cooperation in the region as well as to South-South solidarity and cooperation.

President Vo Chi Cong and President R. Venkataraman discussed and reached an identity of views on international and regional questions of common concern. They re-affirmed the two countries' desire for close cooperation so as together with other countries, to transform the Asian-Pacific region a zone of peace, friendship and cooperation.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of warm cordiality, friendship and mutual trust.

Also this morning, president and Mrs. R. Venkataraman paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited the Ho Chi Minh Museum.

This morning, Pham Van Dong, advisor to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, paid a courtesy visit to President R. Venkataraman.

Welcomed at Mass Meeting

BK2504164191 Hanoi VNA in English 1357 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—A mass meeting was held at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall Here this afternoon to

welcome President and Mrs. R. Venkataraman on an official friendship visit to Vietnam. Present at the meeting were, among others, Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council; Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Le Quang Dao, vice chairman of the State Council and chairman of the National Assembly; Pham Song, minister of public health and president of the Vietnam-India Friendship Association; and Le At Hoi, Mayor of Hanoi.

President Vo Chi Cong delivered the opening speech.

Both the welcome speech of Mayor Le At Hoi and the reply of President R. Venkataraman praised the long-standing friendship between the two countries and peoples and expressed their belief in the further development of the Indo-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation in the new conditions of history for the prosperity and happiness of the two nations.

Received by Nguyen Van Linh

BK2604072491 Hanoi VNA in English 0520 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here yesterday afternoon R. Venkataraman, president of India, who is currently on an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

The Vietnamese party leader highly appreciated India's role in and positive contributions to the settlement of international and regional issues, particularly the search for a political solution to the Cambodian question.

The indian president highly valued the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their current renovation process.

The two leaders laid emphasis on the great importance of the Indo-Vietnamese ties and reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between Vietnam and India in the interests of the two peoples as well as of peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world as a whole. They also shared the view that the Indo- Vietnamese inter-governmental committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation should meet soon so as to define the areas of cooperation and speed up the economic and trade ties between the two countries.

After the reception, party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh invited President R. Venkataraman and his family to a dinner.

Meets Do Muoi

BK2604072991 Hanoi VNA in English 0527 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi yesterday paid a social call to Indian President R. Venkataraman, who arrived here Wednesday for an official friendship visit.

Chairman Do Muoi and President R. Venkataraman exchanged views on the economic situation of their respective countries as well as on the possibilities and orientations for further strengtheing the solidarity, friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and India.

The Indian president stressed that India is willing to cooperate with and help Vietnam in its efforts for economic development.

He also reiterated the Indian Government's invitation to Chairman Do Muoi for an official visit to India. Chairman Do Muoi expressed his thanks and hope that such a visit would be made soon.

Nguyen Van Linh To Visit Soviet Union in May

BK2604034491 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Sources in Hanoi say that on 22 April, Soviet diplomats in Hanoi disclosed that Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, and Comrade Do Muoi, chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, will pay a visit to the Soviet Union in May for major talks.

Comrade Rashit Khamidulin, Soviet ambassador to Vietnam, pointed out that Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and Comrade Do Muoi will visit the Soviet Union to talk about political and economic issues in particular. Comrade Rashit Khamidulin also said the forthcoming visit by the Chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers to Moscow will focus on the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Interior Ministry Officials Receive Cuban Medals

BK2604074791 Hanoi VNA in English 0542 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26—The Cuban Council of State has decided to confer one order, six medals and badges on officials of the Vietnamese Ministry of Interior.

General Mai Chi Tho, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of Interior, is awarded the "Solidarity" order. Vice Ministers Bui Thien Ngo, Cao Dang Chiem, Nguyen Van Duc, Pham Tam Long, and Vo Viet Thanh as well as Director of the Logistics Department Le Tau the "For Solidarity" medals. The Cuban Ministry of Interior conferred badges on the leading officials of various general departments of the ministry.

Addressing the conferment ceremony held in Hanoi on April 24 by Cuban Ambassador Armando Saucedo, Gen. Mai Chi Tho expressed his deep gratitute to the Cuban party, government and people for the awards and wished the friendship between the two countries further development.

Hanoi Congress Opens; Nguyen Van Linh Attends

BK2604040191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] This morning, the first round of the 11th Congress of Delegates of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee was officially opened at the Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Workers Cultural Palace. A total of 546 delegates representing nearly 170,000 party members from about 2,000 party bases in the capital attended the congress. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party Central Committee, and other Central Committee members running for election in Hanoi were present. Also on hand were Comrades Le Van Luong; Nguyen Van Tran, former Hanoi Party Committee secretary; Tran Vy, former of Hanoi People's Committee chairman; and Lieutenant General Chu Duy Kinh, commander of the Capital Military Region.

Comrade Pham The Duyet, secretary of Hanoi's Party Committee, opened the congress and read a report summing up the suggestions made to the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress.

Showing frankness, a democratic spirit, and a high sense of responsibility, the report as well as the opinions expressed at the opening session unanimously held that in the current complex situation, there should be a platform to set the direction for the path of development and to guide the country's renovation process. We are resolved to follow the path to socialism chosen by Uncle Ho and our party. Regarding the socioeconomic situation, the report pointed out in a relatively comprehensive fashion the advantages, difficulties, and weaknesses facing the country when it entered the period of transition to socialism. However, it is necessary to look squarely at the truth and make an evaluation of the situation close to the real state of our society at present, especially the ongoing economic crisis. The state must work out a policy aimed at enabling the state-run economy to operate efficiently and maintain its leading role in the national economy. The overlapping between the central and local economies should be abolished. A comprehensive policy on science and technology should be adopted to turn science and technology into a really important component of the productive forces. Investments must be made to renovate the equipment of the industries producing consumer goods and export commodities. A policy should be formulated to protect locally made products, severely punish fake-goods traders and producers, and develop on a priority basis those branches of commodities that may be exported.

The report and many views expressed at the opening session also stressed that with reagrd to agricultural production, we should continue to affirm that agriculture is the foremost front. Over the past few years, agricultural production has made headway, but the progress has not been steady, and the people's living conditions are still difficult. For this reason, we must concentrate investment on agriculture in conjunction with developing the countryside. Investment must be concentrated on the rice-growing areas in the Red River and Mekong River deltas. Concerning Hanoi, we should step up the development of the suburban food-belt in parallel with the processing of agricultural food products. Many views expressed at the session also touched on the issue of land use and ownership by the peasants and the policy of encouraging the development of different economic sectors.

Employment is an important issue to socioeconomic stability and development but has not been given due attention. As a result, unemployment has become increasingly serious, causing many negative practices in society. In the years ahead, some hold that aside from the three economic programs, there must be a population and employment program, that adequate investment must be made to create conditions for various economic sectors to develop production and services and create jobs for laborers. The current irrational wage system must be revised immediately because only in this way can the livelihood of working people, pensioners, and other beneficiaries of the various social policies be ensured.

Regarding party building, many opinions asserted: In its leadership and guidance, our party has carried out a great deal of renovation. However, the training of party members is being loosened, many party members have shown a decline in their will or have become degenerate, deviant, and corrupt, thus hurting the party's prestige. Disciplinary actions have been severe enough. The party has not been reorganized on a regular basis. Leading cadres and scientific and technical workers should be trained to become ideologists. We should continue to strengthen the training of party members in Marxist-Leninist theories and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts, and so forth. A number of delegates also made suggestions on the party's organizational work and the the party statutes.

Hanoi's party organization congress will continue its work until 29 April.

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Lang Son Province

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[By Tran Trong Chuy]

[Summary] Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh visited Lang Son Province from 18 to 20 April, his first visit to the province. In a meeting with local people, he said he used to dream of visiting Lang Son, but because of his heavy workload, he was not able to realize his dream until today. He extended his regards to all the beloved comrades, multiethnic compatriots, and youths in the province.

Lang Son prides itself as a historic cradle of the country and has witnessed many heroic exploits by our people in their fight against foreign aggression. It is the homeland

of Hoang Van Thu, a staunch communist, and of the Bac Son guerrilla brigade, the forerunner of the heroic Vietnamese Armed Forces.

Since the Sixth Party Congress, the party organization and people of Lang Son have overcome all difficulties and ordeals in achieving initial, yet very important, successes in the renovation effort. Grain output has shown an unprecedented average annual increase of 146,000 to 157,000 metric tons. The lives of multiethnic people in the province, and particularly those along its border, are gradually being improved.

Local peasants' annual income is estimated at 10 to 50 million dong. Some families earn as much as 60-70 million dong per year. While some 6-10 percent of the local families are still underfed, others have been able to build new houses.

The comrade general secretary visited Mr. Ha Van Tu's family of Hoang Trung cooperative, Hoa Dong village, Lang Son city. Mr. Tu guided the comrade general secretary on a tour of his fruit orchard. While passing by a tobacco dryer, the host and guest exchanged pleasantries.

"[Begin recording] [Nguyen Van Linh] How much is the total income earned from your product sales?

"[Ha Van Tu] About six million dong, not including the money from selling of hogs and chickens.

"[Nguyen Van Linh] So, the total income will be over 10 million dong if one includes the money from selling of hogs, chickens, and rice? Is that enough to subsist on?

"[Ha Van Tu] Yes, it is sufficient. My family's daily needs are relatively stable. [end recording]"

The comrade general secretary also met another peasant named Ho Chinh Vuong, 52, of the Hoang Tam cooperative, Hoa Dong village, who is well known for his plant grafting.

"[Begin recording] [Ho Chinh Vuong] Tree grafting is easy. If we graft a tangerine tree cutting into a orange tree branch this year, it will bear fruit next year.

"[Nguyen Van Linh] It would be a big mistake if Lang Son were to ignore growing fruit trees because the province is small and overpopulated. If the numerous bare hills were covered with trees, Lang Son would become self-sufficient and even much better off economically. [end recording]"

Before departing, the comrade general secretary joyfully told the local peasants:

"[Begin recording] Now that we are capable of growing various kinds of trees—tea, plum, peach, and other fruit trees—your present income is high and you can keep some money for building your own houses. This is a good trend. Since I am making this visit on behalf of the party Central Committee, I will report back on what I have seen here, and I think the Central Committee will be very happy when it learns of the improved living conditions of our multiethnic compatriots. As affirmed by the comrade secretary of the provincial party committee, by 1995, all the state-owned hills will be covered with greenery and by then the province's income will increase ten-fold. [applause] [end recording]"

The comrade general secretary dropped by a newly founded chopstick export enterprise. Enterprise director Comrade Lam Van Bot gave him a briefing. He said they are trying to make full use of the local bamboo resources. Addressing the enterprise workers, the comrade general secretary said:

"[Begin recording] After being guided on a tour of various stages of your work, I would like to first of all express my satisfaction and hail all of you, including leading comrades, cadres, and workers of the enterprise. Your plan reflects the most correct ideas of the leading comrades of the province. Based on the new tasks outlined in the resolution of the Sixth Party Congress, you comrades have begun using bamboo to make chopsticks. I also found that in other fields of activity, you have been able to develop the latent potential in manpower and production of this province where the economy is mainly horticulture-based. The quality of a product is usually very good and up to standards when it is first introduced as a experiment, but when a product goes into mass production, its quality tends to be poorer. We should strive to avoid this situation. [end recording]"

The general secretary also visited soldiers at the Friendship Gate outpost and Dong Dang town. Comrade Hoang Tinh, deputy head of the Lang Son Provincial Border Guards, and Comrade La Vinh Hoa, secretary of the Dong Dang town party committee, briefed him on the local situation. The general secretary hailed the efforts by cadres, combatants, and people of Dong Dang town.

[Reporter reads remarks] As Dong Dang occupies a special position, efforts to exercise control in this town will definitely be more difficult and complex than that in other localities. To satisfactorily perform your duty, you comrades should depend entirely on the people. The current cross-border exchange of goods is a welcoming and encouraging factor, for it is suited to the mentality, customs, and interests of the people on the border between the two countries. However, this trade should be carried out in an orderly fashion and in accordance with the law of each country.

The general secretary also had a cordial talk with party cadres, party members, combatants, people representing various ethnic groups, and veteran revolutionary cadres of Lang Son. On behalf of the Political Bureau and the Party Central Committee, he hailed those socioeconomic changes for the better which he had witnessed or of which he had been told. He affirmed that these are the results of the creative application of the party's renovative line and that they testified to the correctness of the successful line set by the Sixth Party Congress. This line

has been welcomed and supported by the people. He said thanks to this, our party found a way out of its crisis.

He also pointed out weaknesses and discussed some aspects of party work in Lang Son. He encouraged intensifying thrifty measures in production and consumption and summing up and widely disseminating the experiences obtained by various outstanding production models. He also discussed problems arising from the policy of giving land to peasants to manage, the need to improve the militancy and unity within the party and to oppose departmentalism and individualism, and the questions of training personnel and improving the welfare of the people of various ethnic groups. He emphatically pointed out:

"[Begin recording] You, comrades, are going to hold the first- round party organization congress of the province very soon and will hold a second-round party congress later this year. I hope that the Lang Son provincial party organization will be able to provide good guidance for the congresses. It should particularly involve itself deeper in studying and contributing views on various party documents. It should chose delegates who meet the standards set by the Party Central Committee to attend the coming Seventh Party Congress. This will help elect to the new Seventh Party Central Committee those comrades fully qualified to lead the renovation effort. During the sixth term of office of the Party Central Committee, we have been able to make important changes for the better in various aspects of our country in general and in the province in particular. The renovation process should be carried out continuously and be further improved.

"Those areas in which we did not do well during the sixth term of office of the Party Central Committee should be perfected during the coming seventh term of office. Therefore, the Seventh Party Central Committee, as well as the provincial party executive committee, should be composed of qualified comrades who should be firm ideologically, should possess good qualities, and should improve their general knowledge if they are to satisfactorily lead the renovation process during the seventh tenure of the party Central Committee. I hope that you comrades of the provincial party committee and people's committee, and those who have creatively and successfully solved various problems, will further develop your dynamism and creativity in successfully dealing with any problems that may arise. [applause] [end recording]"

On behalf of the people of Lang Son, Comrade La Thang, secretary of the provincial party committee, pledged that the party organization and people of the province would strive to do their utmost to implement all the instructions given by the comrade general secretary.

New Zealand

French Prime Minister's Upcoming Visit Analyzed

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[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, April 26 (AFP)—French Prime Minister Michel Rocard will visit New Zealand next week in what is seen as a bid to lay the Rainbow Warrior and other gnawing bilateral issues to rest.

Continued French nuclear testing in what New Zealand regards as its backyard, perceived French imperialism in New Caledonia and French Polynesia and a runway across a penguin colony in Antarctica have made France very unpopular here.

And then there was the bombing of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour.

But a remarkable change in attitudes has occurred, and Mr. Rocard's visit starting Monday, which once would have been the focus of large-scale protests, is creating few ripples.

In a clever move, Mr. Rocard himself asked to meet with Greenpeace while here.

Mr. Rocard, who was last here six years ago as agriculture minister, has made no secret that this mission is a fence-mending exercise, primarily to close the Rainbow Warrior affair.

The ship was in Auckland preparing to sail for the French nuclear testing site at Mururoa Atoll when, on July 10, 1985, French secret service agents attached limpet mines to its hull and blew it up, killing a crewman.

The remarkable incompetence of the mission was revealed six days later when police arrested two agents, Major Alain Mafart and Captain Dominique Prieur, travelling on false Swiss passports.

On November 4 the two pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges and were sentenced to 10 years in jail.

A year later, in a deal engineered by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, France agreed to compensate New Zealand, while the two agents were handed over to be held on Hao Atoll in French Polynesia for a minimum of three years.

Maj. Mafart was moved to Paris a year later, and then during the May 1988 presidential elections contender and then-French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac had Capt. Prieur flown home.

New Zealand, outraged at what was seen as another example of French arrogance, took the issue back to the United Nations.

Last year a U.N. panel reported back, basically in New Zealand's favour, and urged Paris to establish a two million U.S. dollar "friendship" fund, which is to be formally signed into existence while Mr. Rocard is here.

Then-New Zealand prime minister Geoffrey Palmer promptly invited Mr. Rocard to New Zealand to end the affair, but it has taken until now, three prime ministers later here, for the visit to take place.

Mr. Rocard's desire to end the mess is illustrated by his willingness to meet in Christchurch with Greenpeace members on Tuesday. He has included in his party French Environment Minister Brice Lalonde, an early Greenpeace member and opponent of nuclear tests.

But while environmental issues, notably continued nuclear testing and the question of the future of Antarctica, will appear on the agenda of meetings with Prime Minister Jim Bolger, along with discussion of progress towards self-government in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, for New Zealand the dominant issue will be trade.

In 1990 New Zealand exports to France were worth 214 million dollars, a drop of 23 per cent on the value of exports in 1989. French exports to New Zealand were worth 148 million dollars, a rise of 14 per cent.

The French premier is known to have been previously sympathetic over trade barriers faced by New Zealand farmers, and his hosts will press the need for an agreement in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), currently at an impasse over the European Community's apparent unwillingness to temper agricultural protectionism.

Papua New Guinea

Prime Minister Urges Withdrawal of Union Threat

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[Text] Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, has demanded that the Prison Officers' Union withdraw a threat to release all the country's prisoners and walk off the job.

A Corrective Institution Services Association issued the threat to back demands for the reinstatement of two union officials. It also wants positive action from the government on the issues of retrenchment and superannuation.

Mr. Namaliu described the threat as blackmail and said if it was not withdrawn he would direct the police and the attorney general to consider criminal proceedings against the union official who issued the ultimatum.

He said that if the union did go on strike the government would call in police and the defense force to ensure prisoners remain in their cells.

The two union officials were suspended without pay allegedly for failing to return to their duties since January. The union claims the two had been involved in organizing the union since the beginning of the year.